

# AKIRA

36

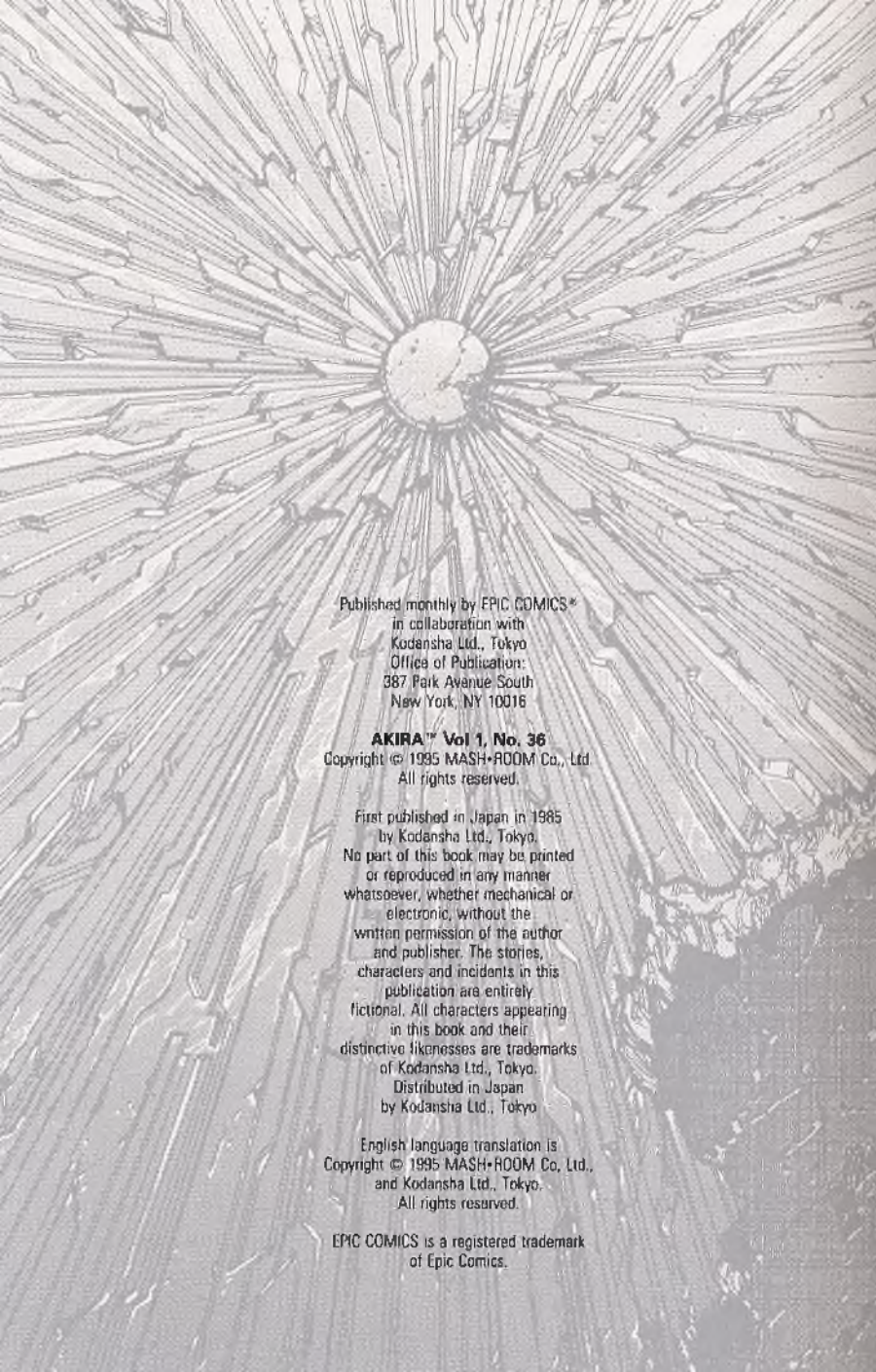
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# AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 36

## MIYAKO'S LAST STAND



## WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE



**2**030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, onetime leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization — led by a man known only as the **Colonel** — and a resistance group whose members included **Kay**, **Ryu**, and a formidable woman named **Chiyoko**.

The **Colonel** once controlled

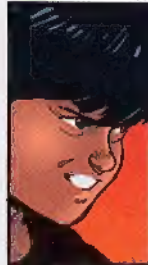
a number of psychic children, each identified by a number marked on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru** — Numbers 25 and 27. The blind **Lady Miyako** —

**Number 19** — now heads a great religious cult. **Number 41** is **Tetsuo**, who lost his left arm to a laser blast from the Colonel's SDF military satellite, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate a prosthetic replacement. **Tetsuo** was Kaneda's dearest friend until he used his burgeoning powers to slaughter other members of their gang. Now, **Kaneda** is out for revenge.

Most powerful of all the children is **Number 28** —

**Akira** — a docile and enigmatic boy who was placed in cryogenic sleep almost forty years ago, after he started the Third World War with a mental blast. He was recently reawakened by **Tetsuo**, and again he devastated the reconstructed city of **Neo-Tokyo**. Now Japan exists in a state of emergency. The forces of the army and the resistance are scattered, and the military's formidable caretaker robots patrol the streets.

In the western part of **Neo-Tokyo**, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed — a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minis-



Kaneda



Masaru



Kai



Lady Miyako



ter. Together the pair use their powers, organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. Their headquarters is Neo-Tokyo's Olympic Stadium. To the east, **Lady Miyako** welcomes refugees to her shrine. In this, she is aided by **Kiyoko**, **Masaru**, and a number of loyal, psychic monks.

The **Empire** is infiltrated by teams of spies and commando units from the outside world, equipped with biochemical armaments which take a tremendous toll on Tetsuo's forces.

A fleet of foreign ships waits in Tokyo Bay, poised for action. Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists and one Tibetan monk study the **Akira** phenomenon — which they've codenamed Juvenile A. One of the scientists — **Stanley Simmons** goes ashore to implement a secret plan. The

research team is certain that using military force against **Akira** and **Tetsuo** can only lead to disaster.

Meanwhile, **Kay** joins Miyako's forces in battle against **Tetsuo**. **Kay** is a powerful medium, through whom the others can project their powers and strike as one.



**Kaneda** teams up with **Kai** and **Joker** — a rival from his gang days. Using salvaged weapons the trio lead a force of



**Tetsuo**



**Stanley Simmons**



**Akira**



**Joker**



refugees and street rats to help Kay in her battle with **Tetsuo**. As they fight, **Akira** looks placidly on.

Then, the international fleet in the harbor sends fighter planes to rain death upon **Neo-Tokyo**, causing chaos among all the combatants. Enraged, **Tetsuo** teleports himself to space, seizing control of an orbiting laser cannon. He fires the weapon at the fleet, and then brings it crashing down upon the flagship, killing the commanders and forcing mass evacuation of military personnel and the few scientists who survive.

Griefstricken over the death of his gentle girlfriend, **Kaori**, **Tetsuo** carries her body to the underground chamber where **Akira** once slept. Drawn by the similarity of their powers, **Akira** follows **Tetsuo**. Along the way, he is joined by **Kaneda**, **Joker**,

**Chiyoko** and **Ryu**. They plan to fight in the bowels of the earth, where many of their comrades died.

**Tetsuo's** powers have grown erratic. His body frequently bloats and expands, engulfing those who venture too close. For a moment, it seems that contact with **Kaneda** has restored **Tetsuo's** humanity. Then, his power comes surging back, and **Kaneda** is drawn into his monstrous form, apparently consumed. As the battle rages, **Akira** becomes more alert. Terrified of what might occur if **Akira** fully awakes, **Ryu** panics. He draws a gun and shoots **Akira**, setting the boy's power free.

Seeking a new power source for himself, **Tetsuo** flies to Lady Miyako's shrine, with **Kay** in hot pursuit. **Lady Miyako** instructs **Kiyoko** and **Masaru** to look after **Akira**.



**Kiyoko**



**Kaori**

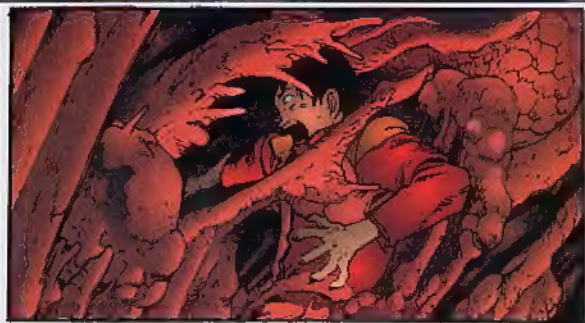


**Seer**



**Ryu**





and the pair teleport away to help their friend. **Lady Miyako**, her followers, and **Kay** prepare to make a final stand against **Tetsuo**.

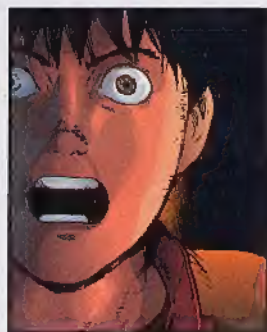
**Kiyako** and **Masaru** meet **Akira** on the psychic plane, and are joined by the spirits of all the gifted children who have died before, hoping to use Akira's power once more.

Telling **Kay** that the resolution depends on her, **Lady Miyako** heroically draws Tetsuo's attention to herself and is killed. As she dies, she, too, is drawn to the spirit plane, where the souls of friends who have gone before await. **Kay** is guided in battle by her late mentor's commands, and is able to break through to **Tetsuo**. His concentration interrupted, he is vulnerable, and is himself consumed by force from Akira's mind.

Trapped within Tetsuo's

soul, **Kaneda** experiences a fractured, kaleidoscopic journey through his late friend's life and hardships, sharing with **Tetsuo** both the good memories and the bad.

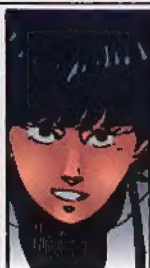
**Kaneda** is contacted by Lady Miyako's spirit, and is stunned by what she is told. Although **Tetsuo** and **Akira** were created in laboratories, they, and all the catastrophe they bring, are a vital part of mankind's future evolution.



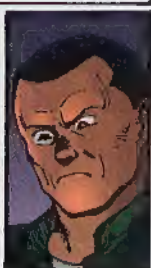
**Chiyoko**



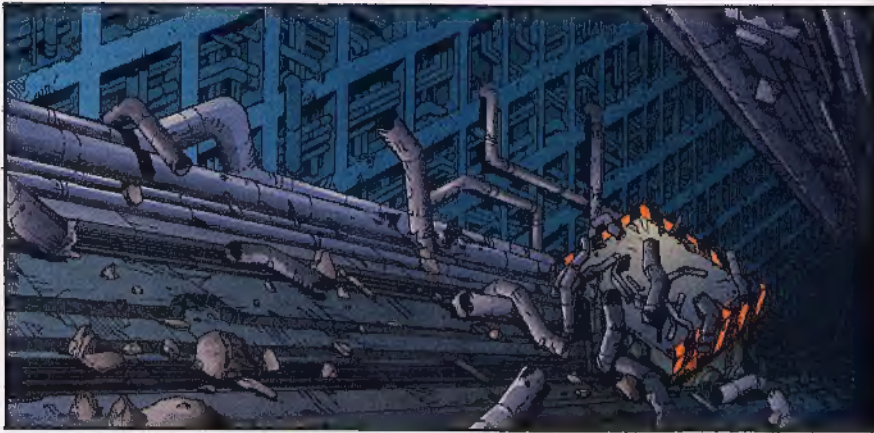
**The Colonel**



**Kay**



**Lt. Yamada**

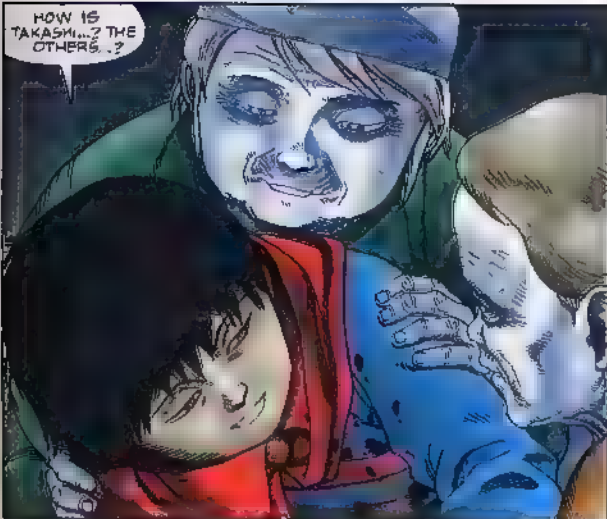




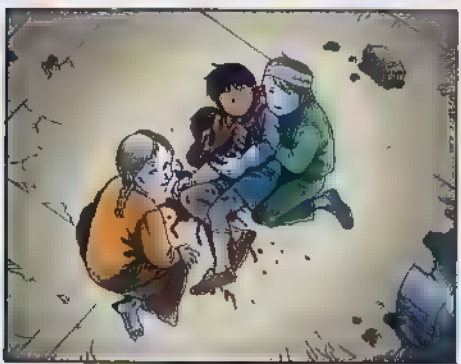
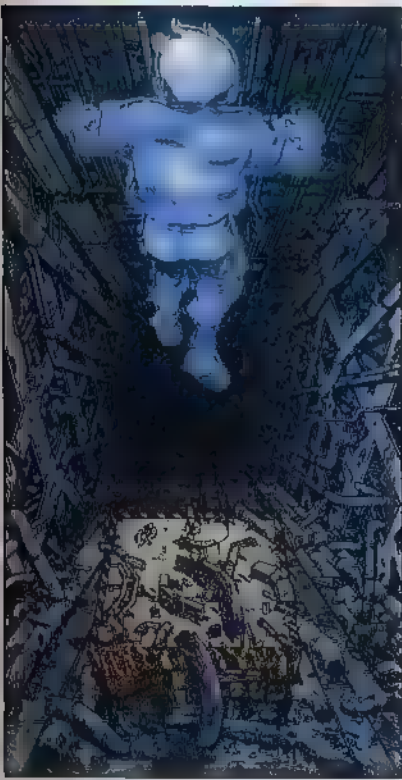
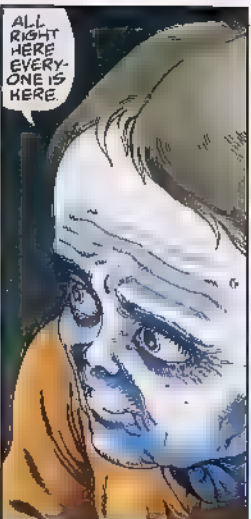




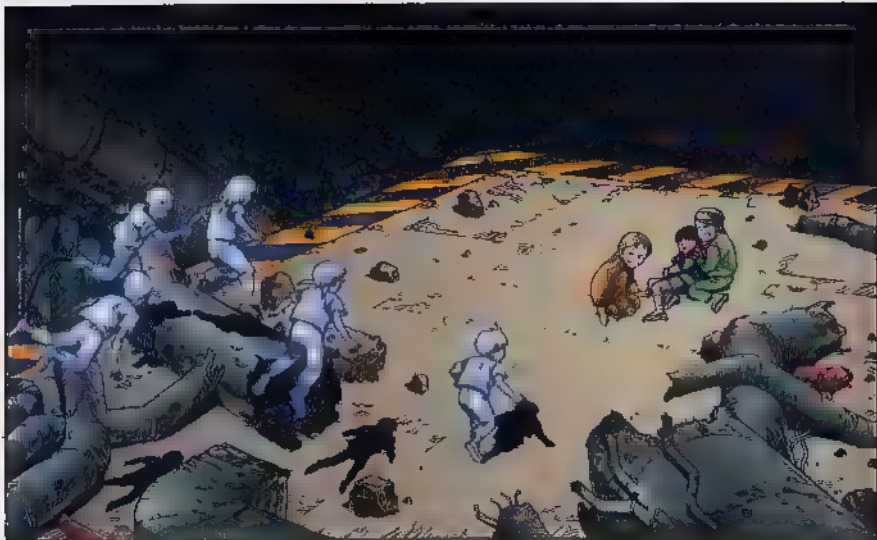
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OTHERS...?

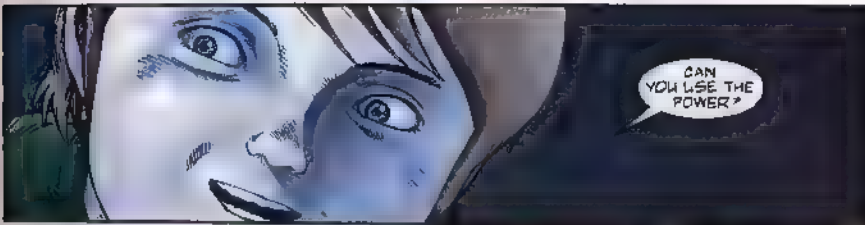


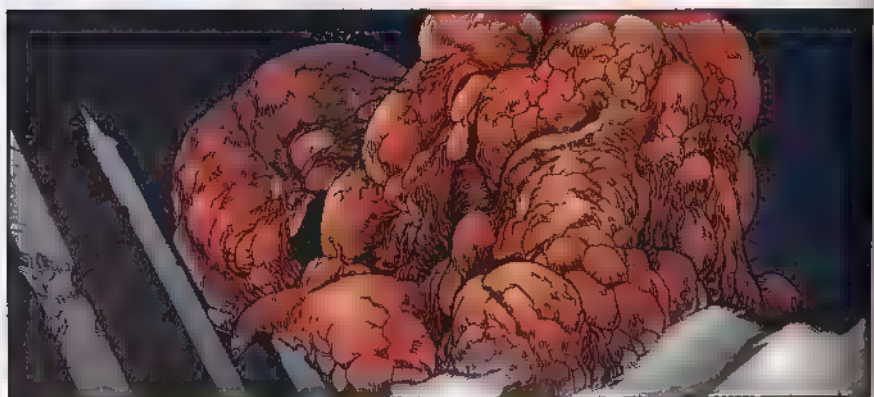
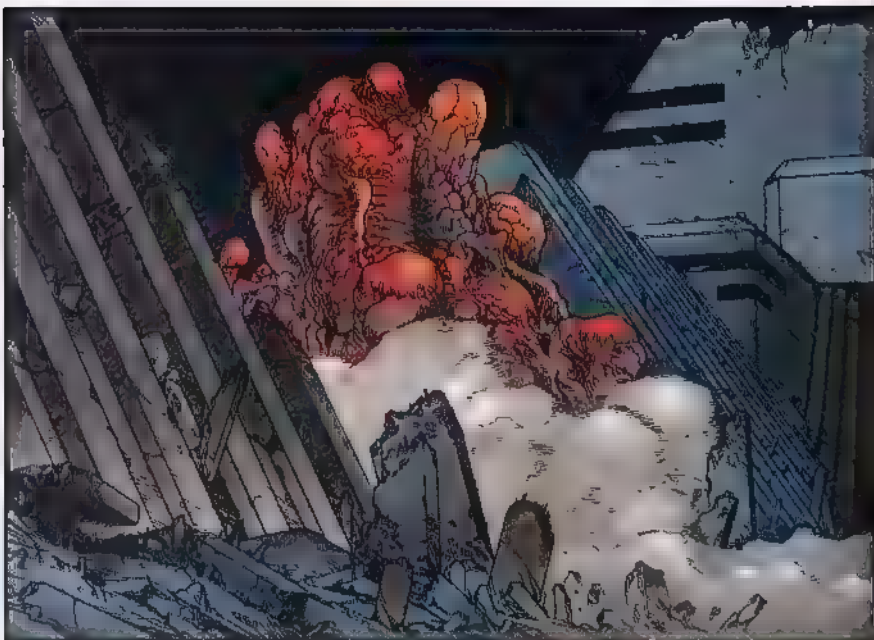
ALL  
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EVERY-  
ONE IS  
HERE



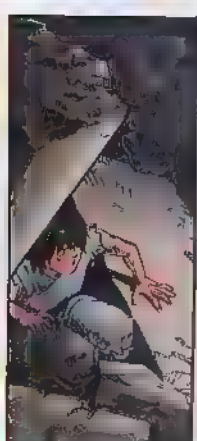
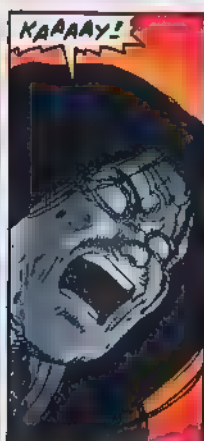
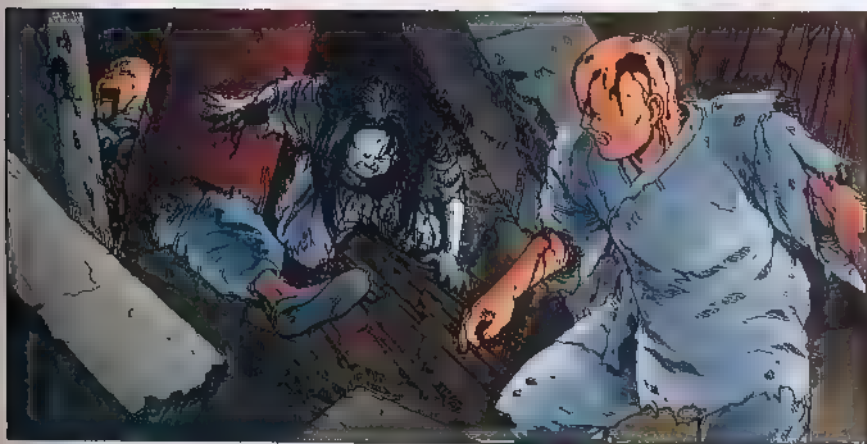
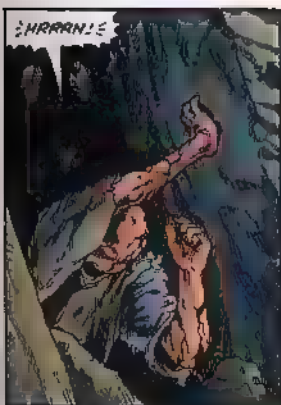


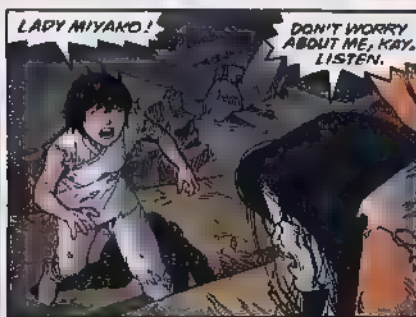
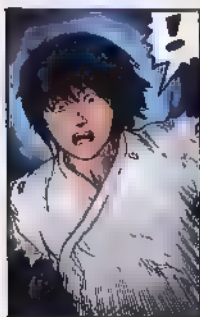
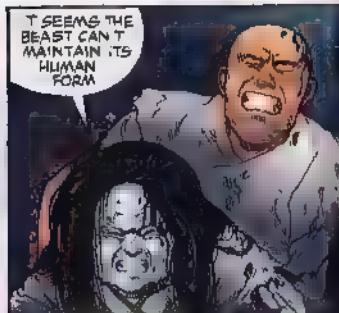
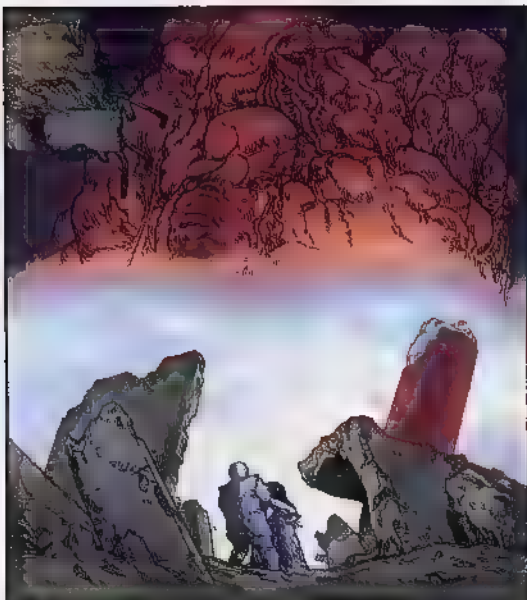




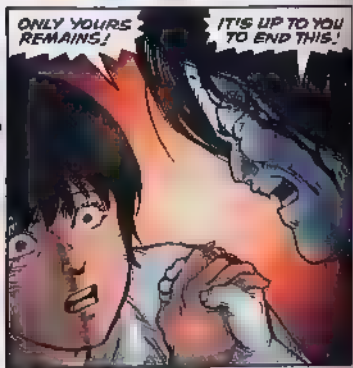
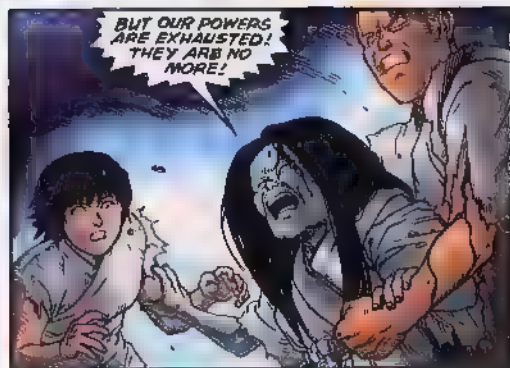
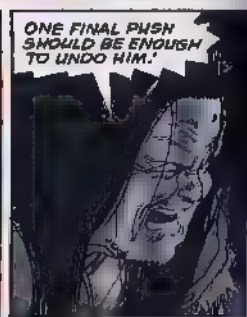


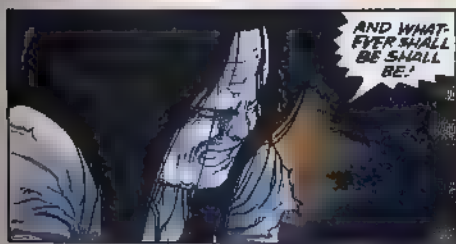
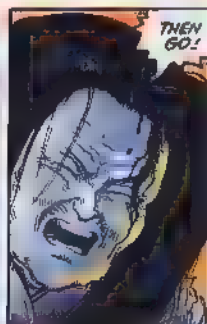
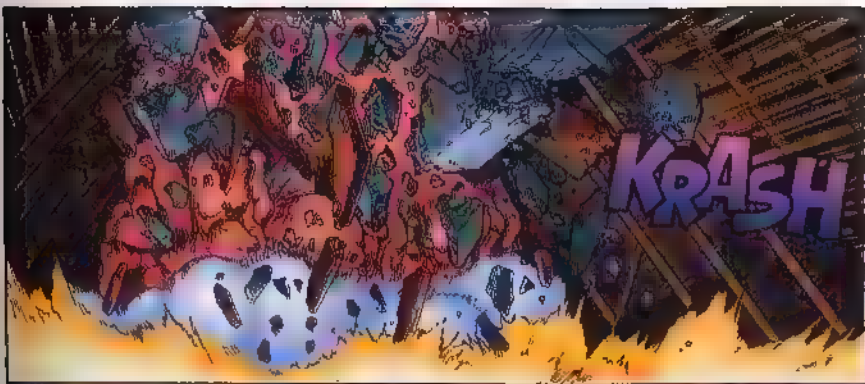




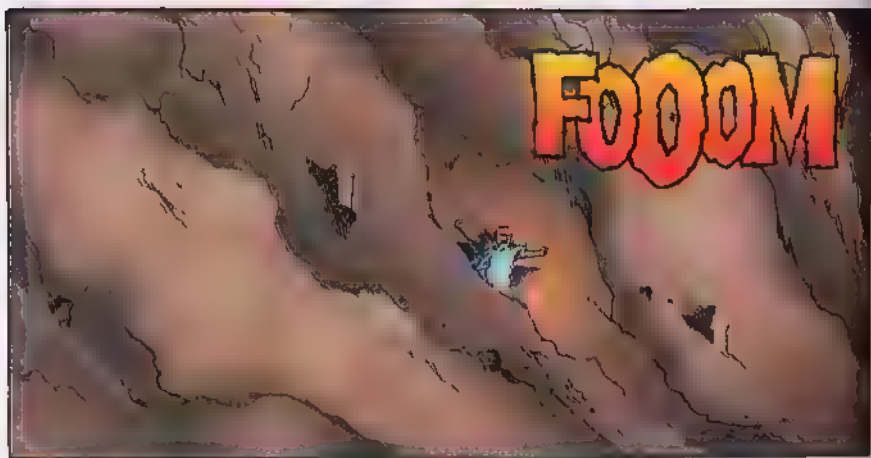


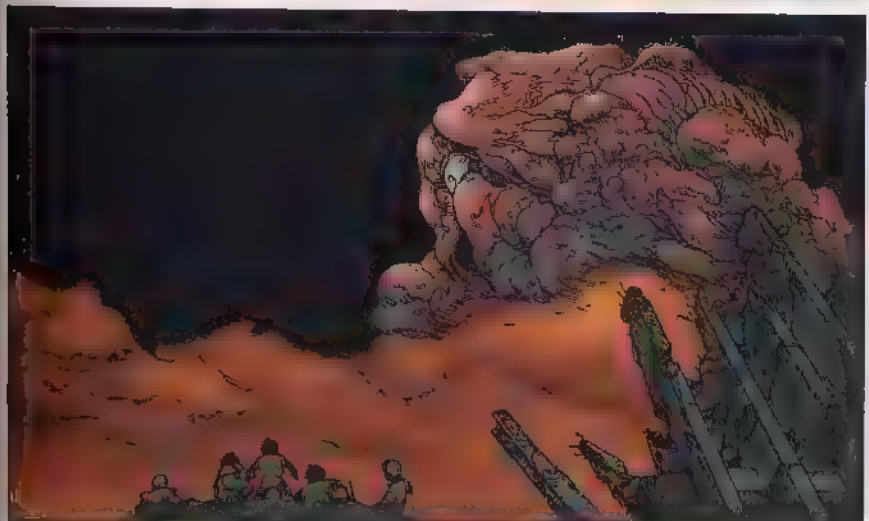
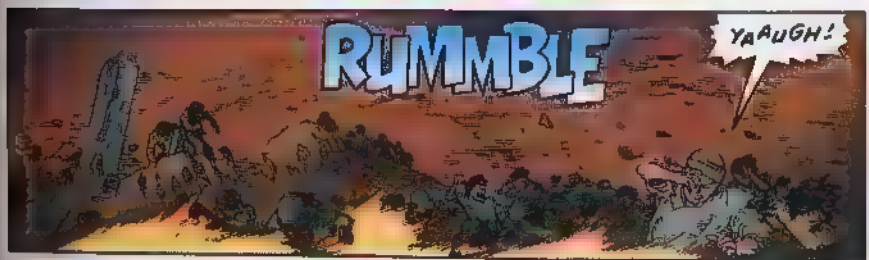
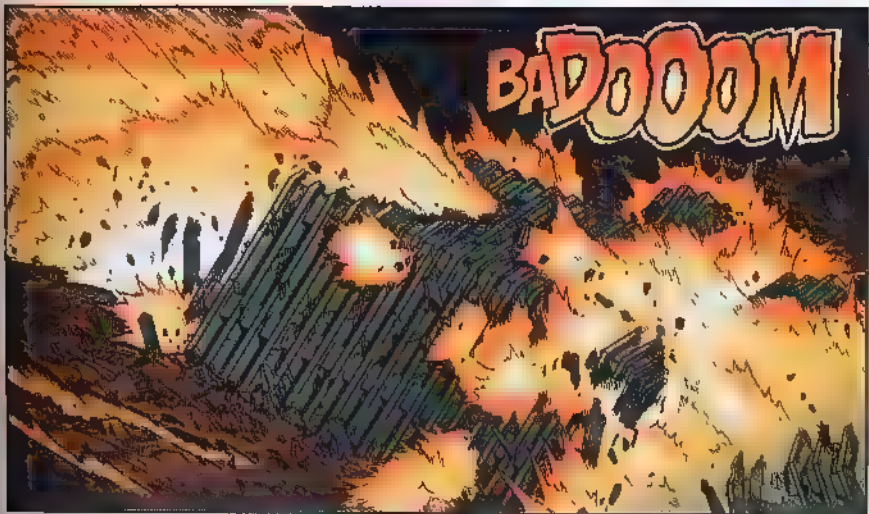
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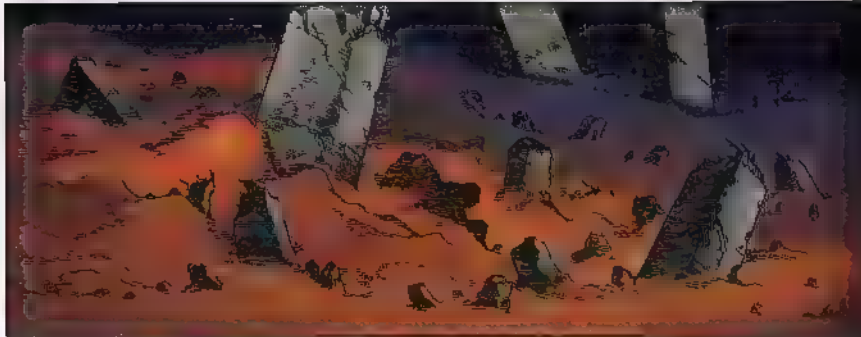




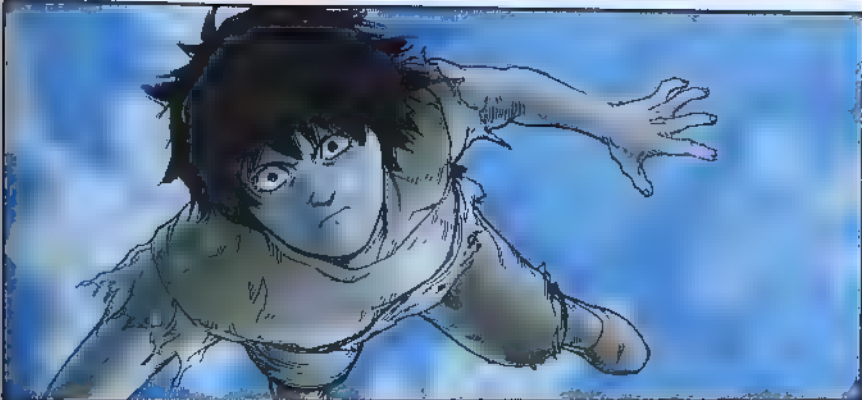


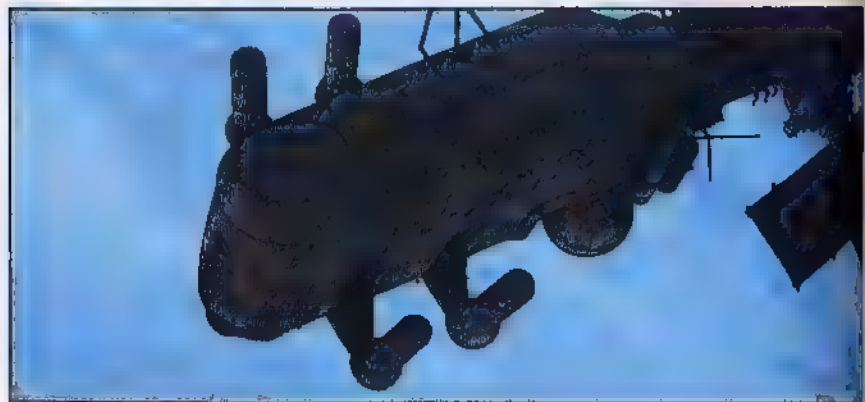
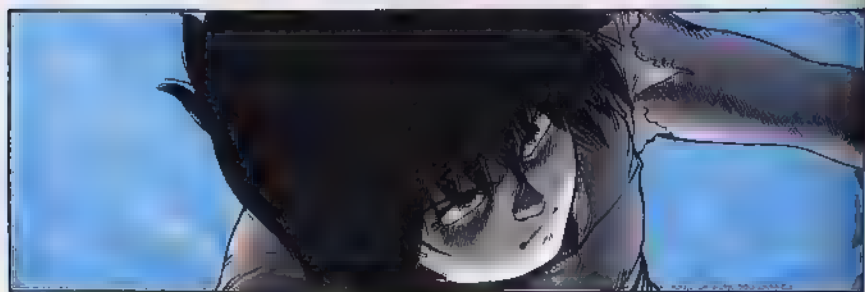
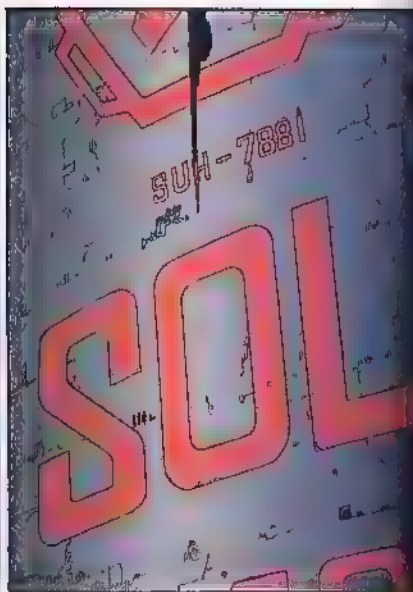
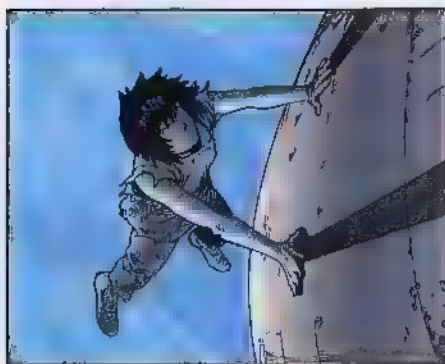


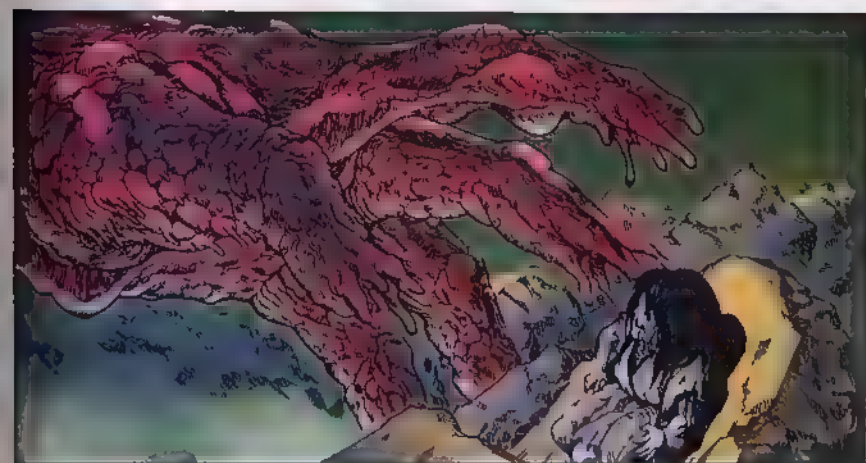
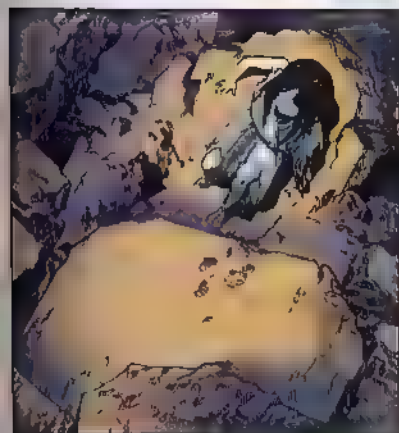
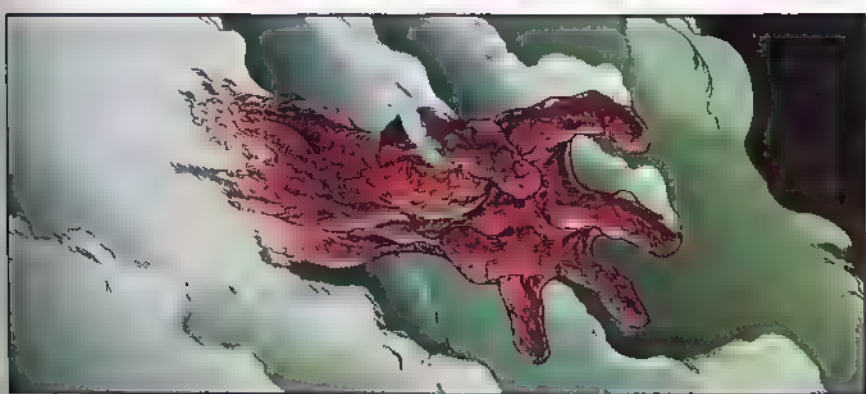




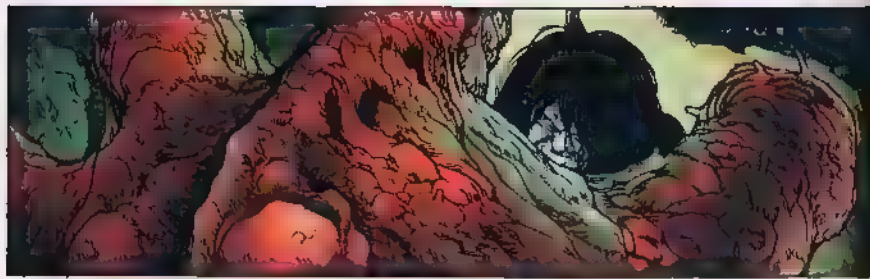








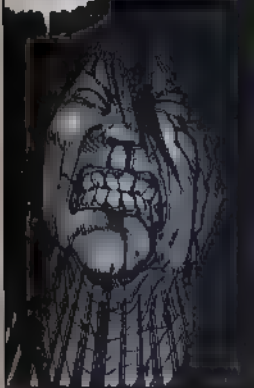


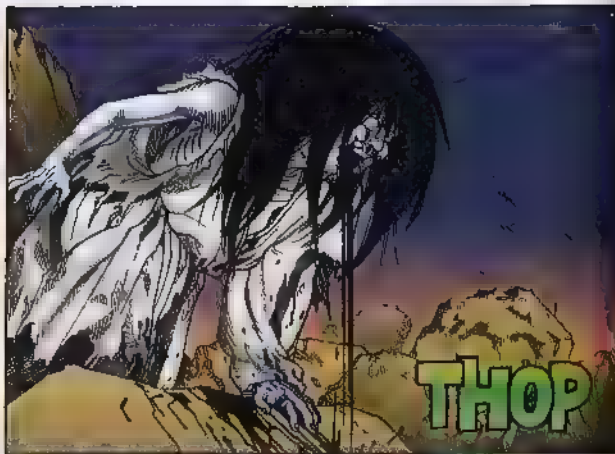


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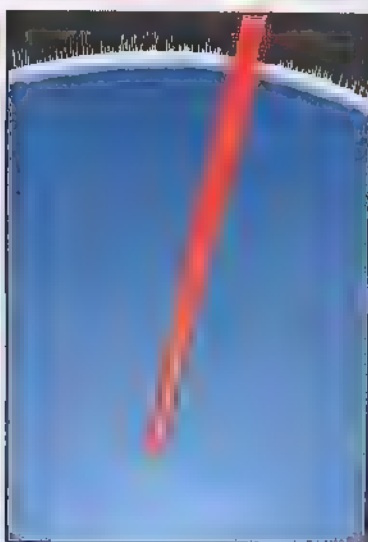
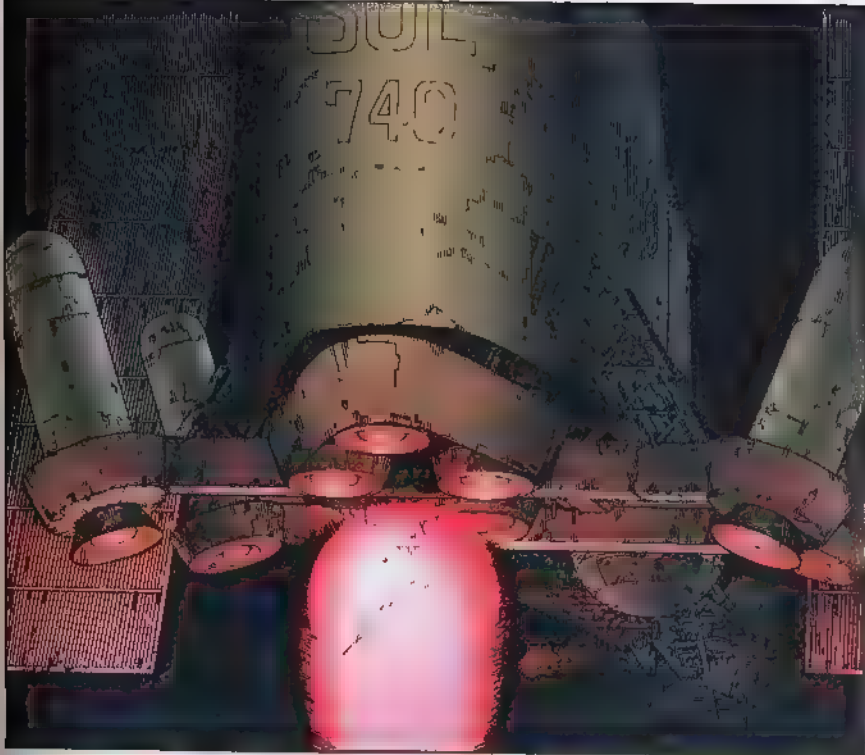


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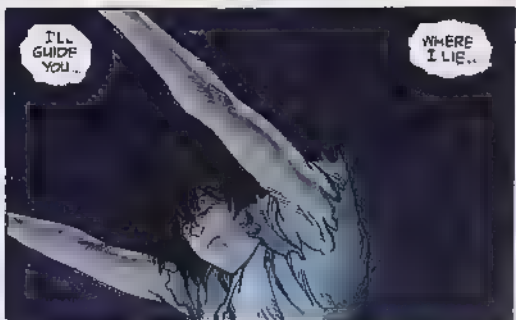
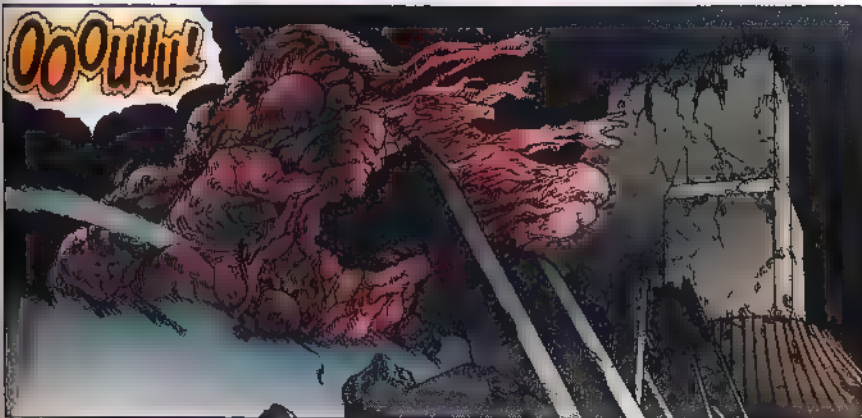




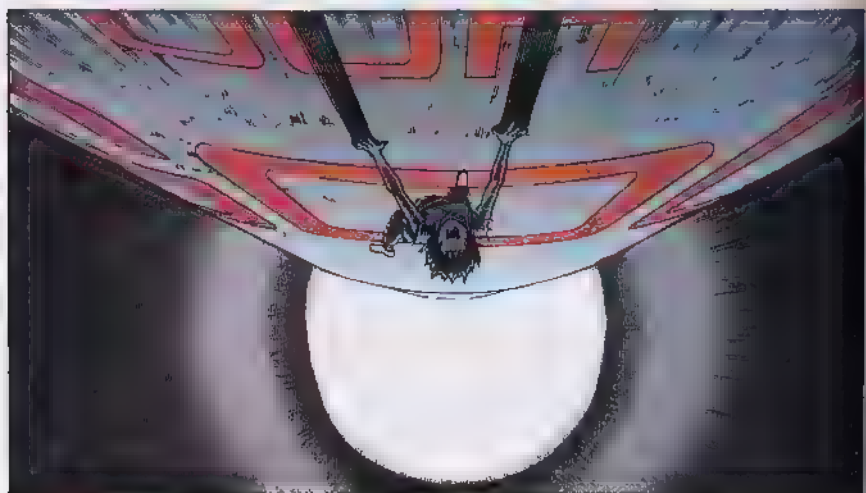
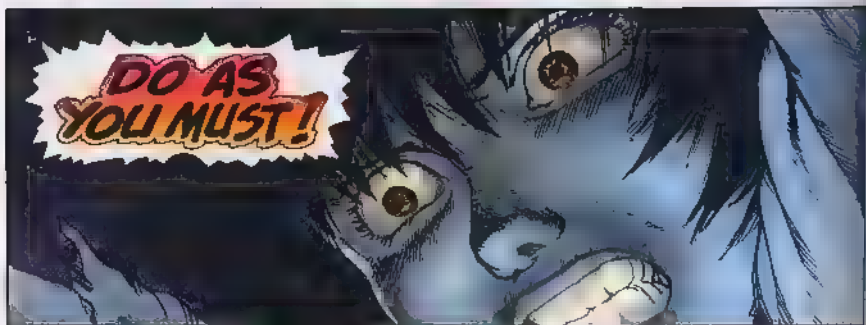
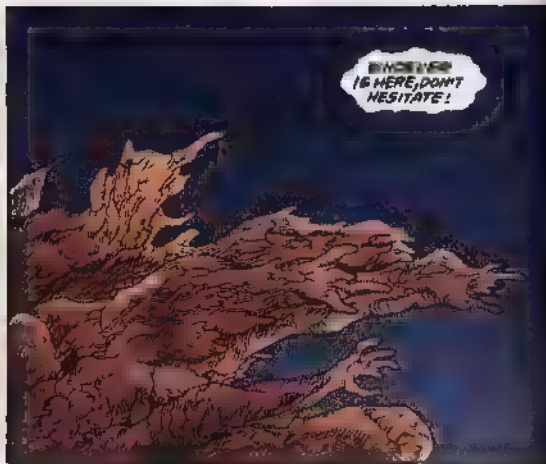


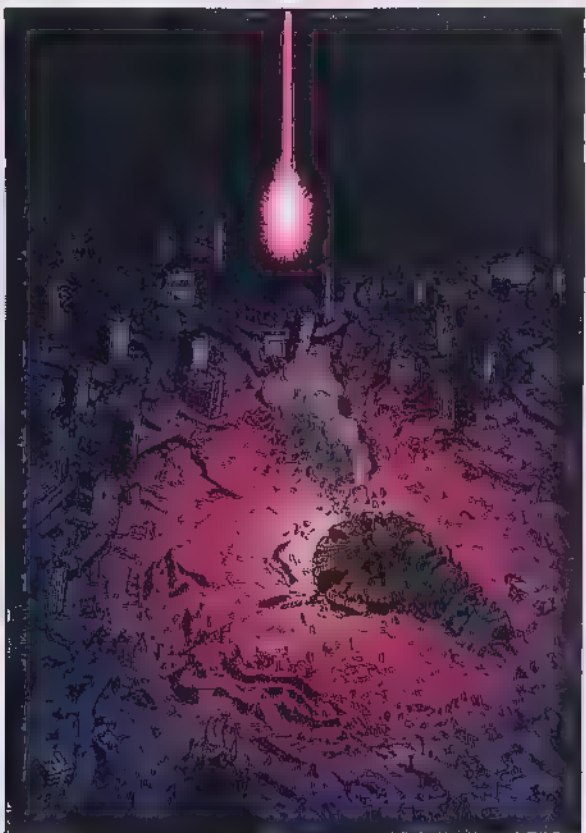
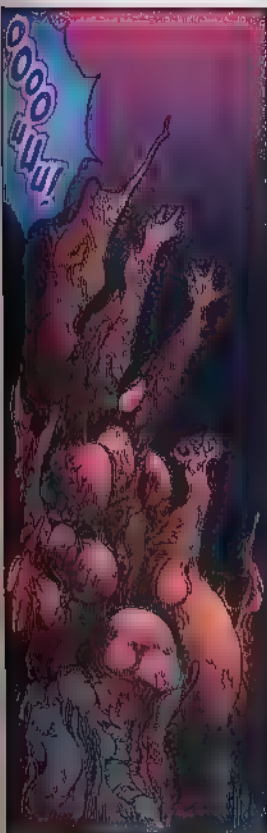


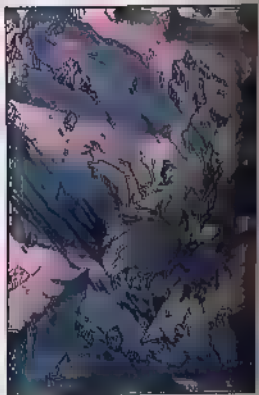
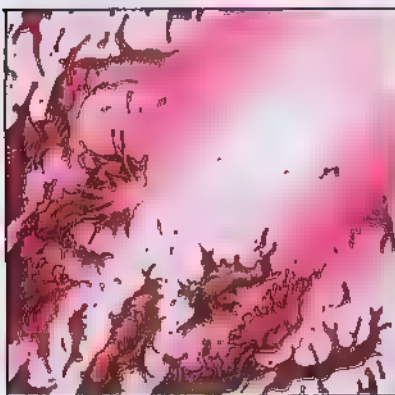




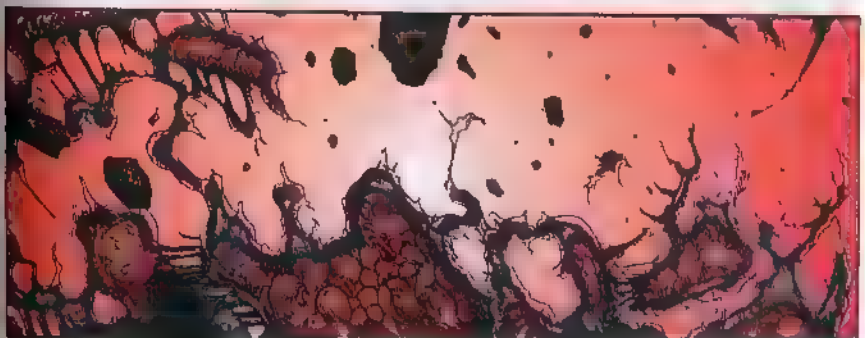
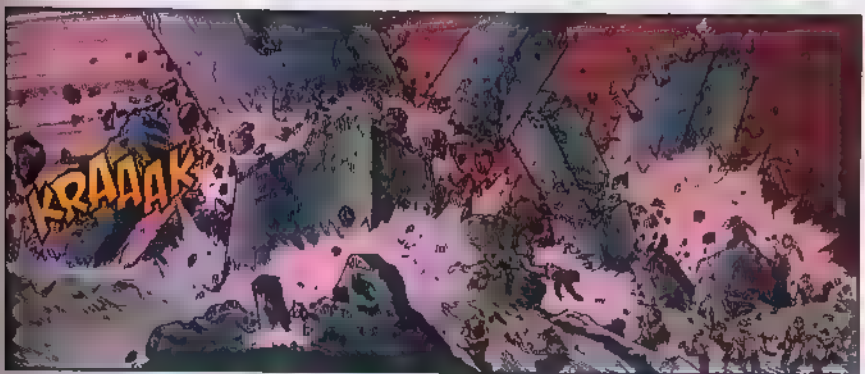
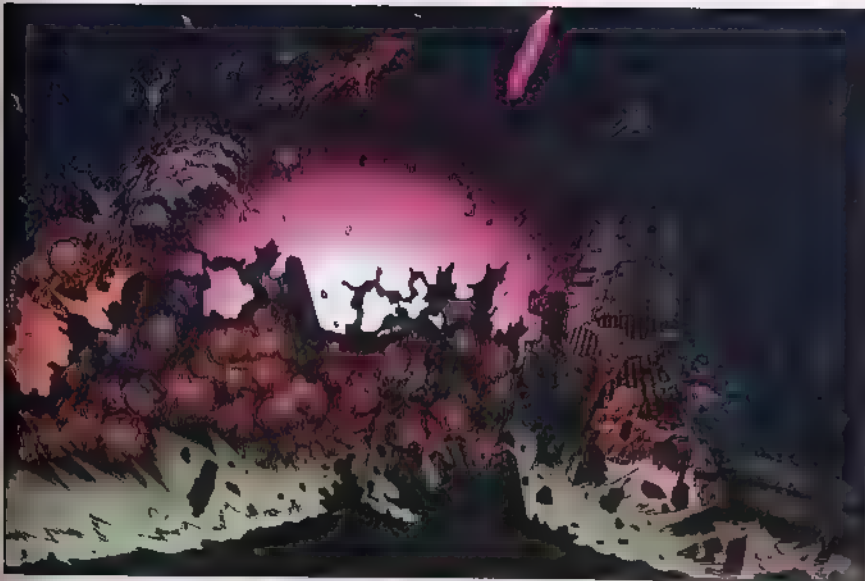


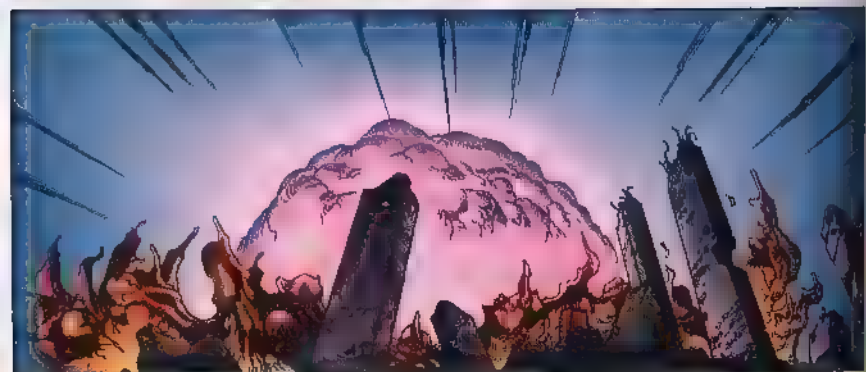
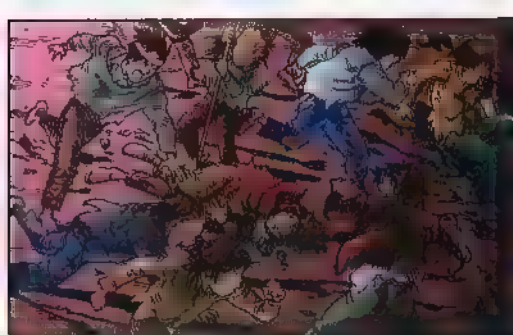


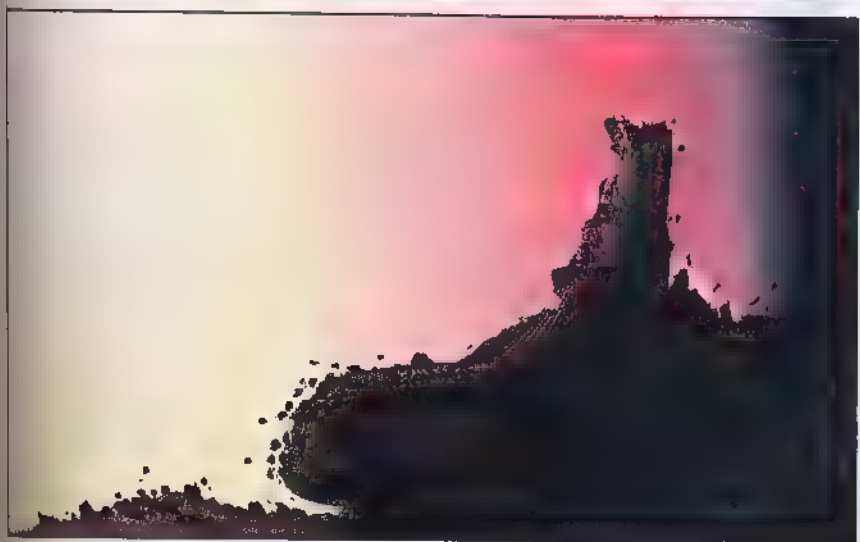


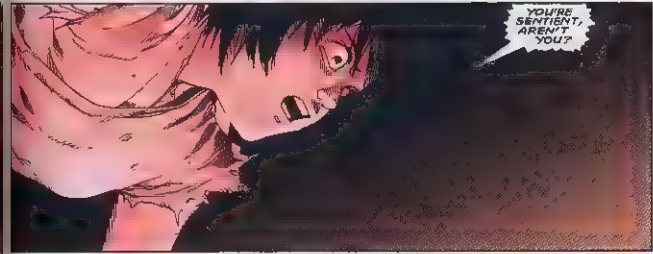
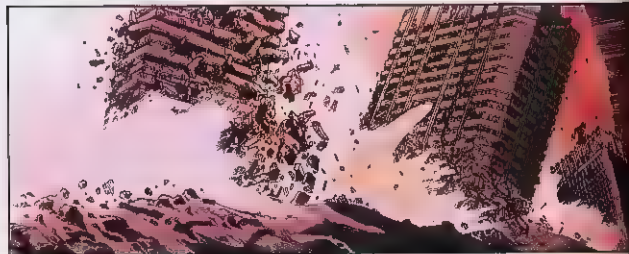
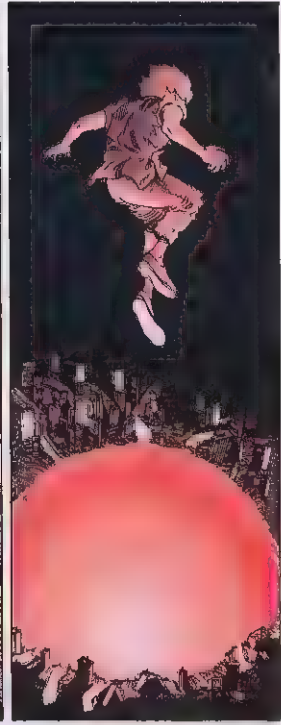
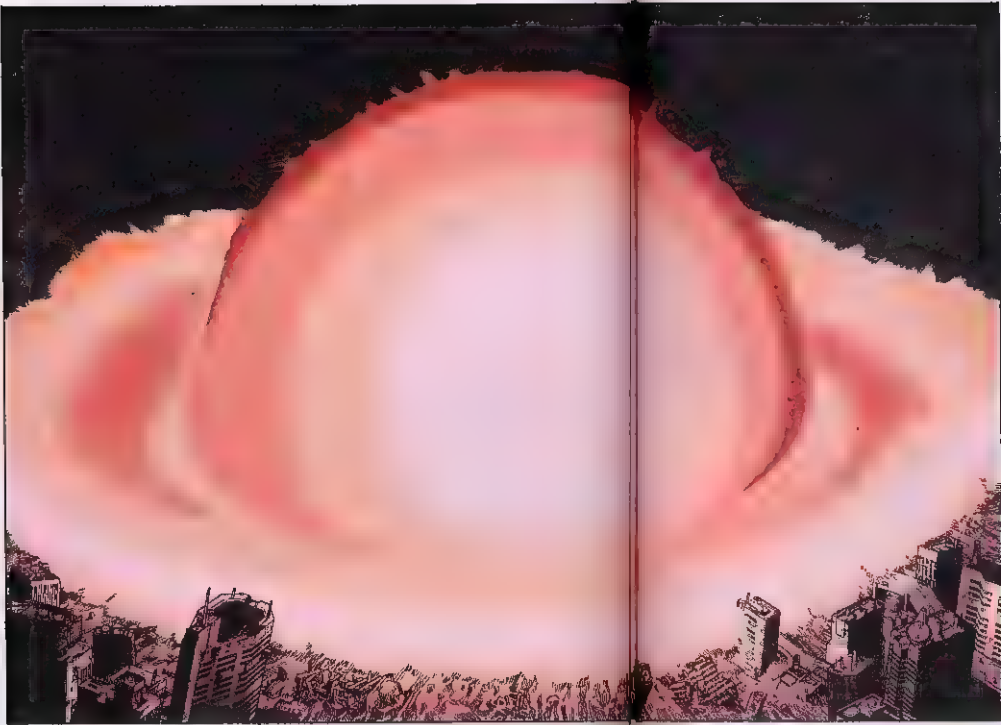




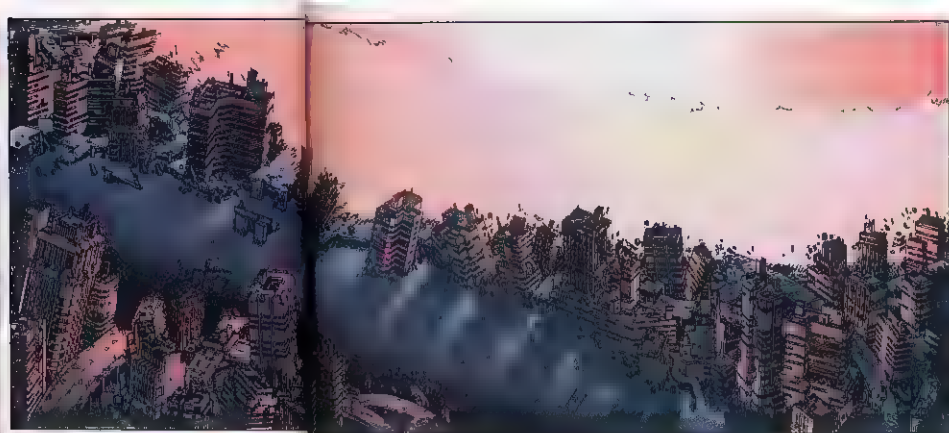
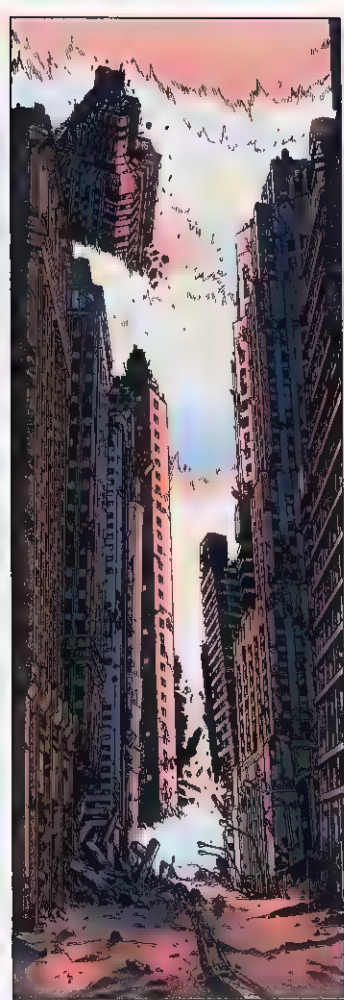






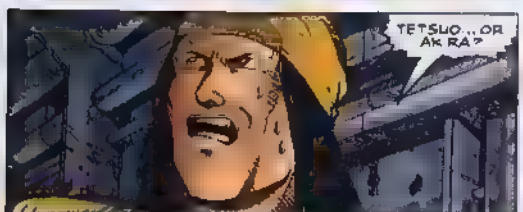
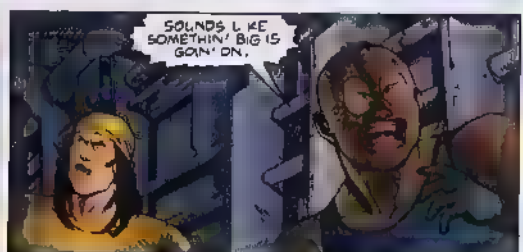




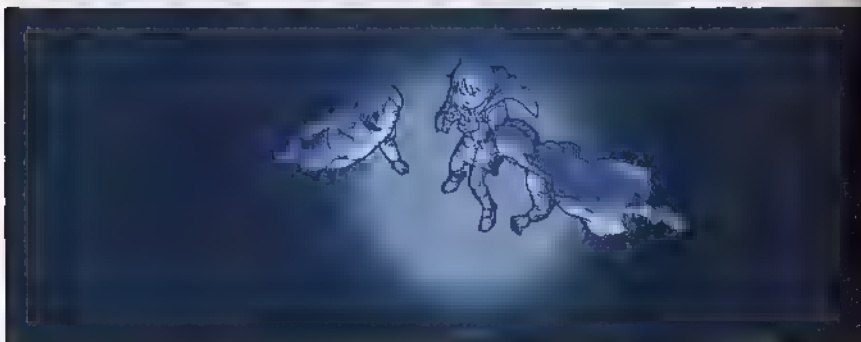
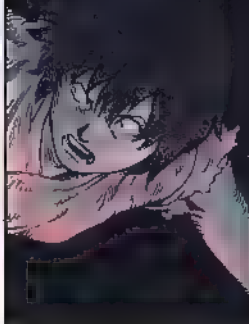


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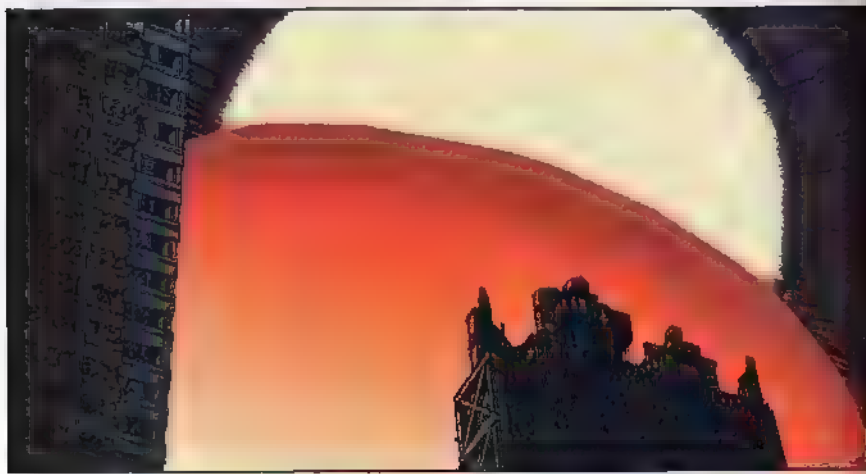
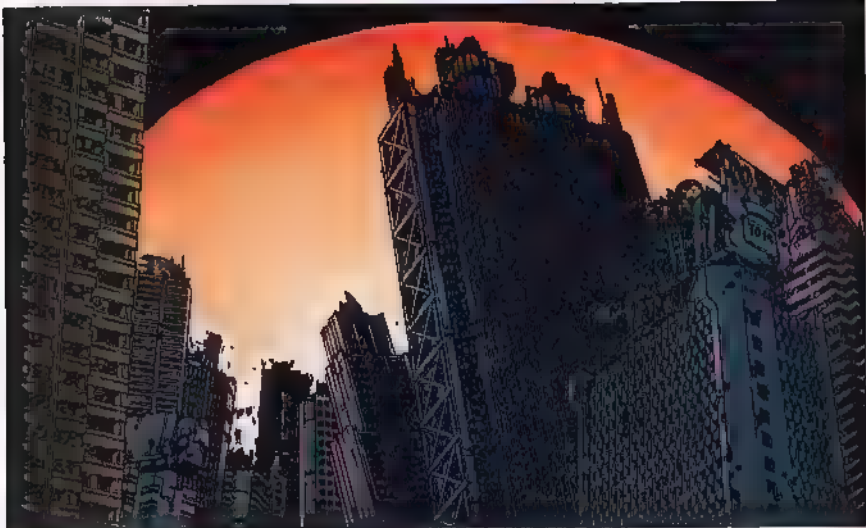
WHAT ABOUT  
AKIRA?

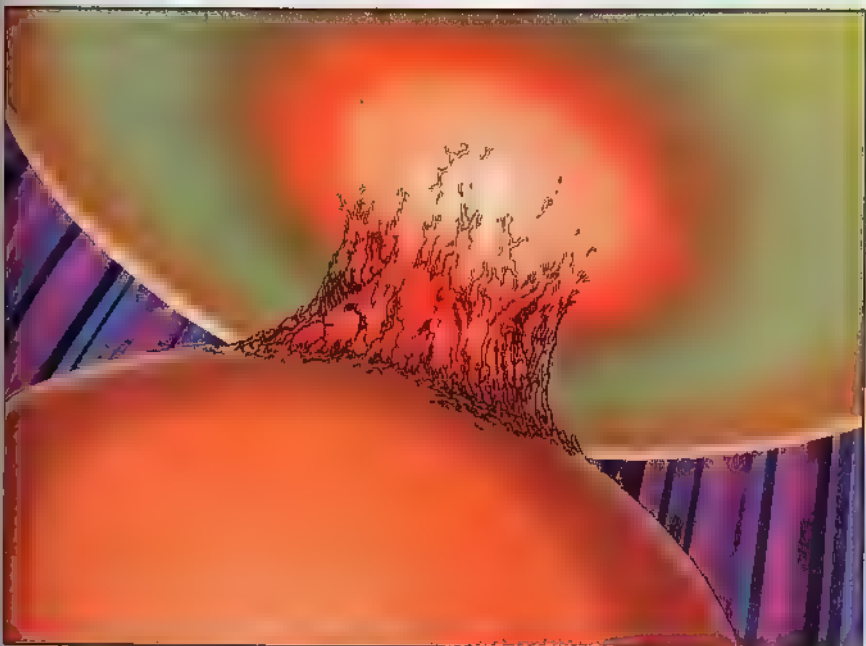
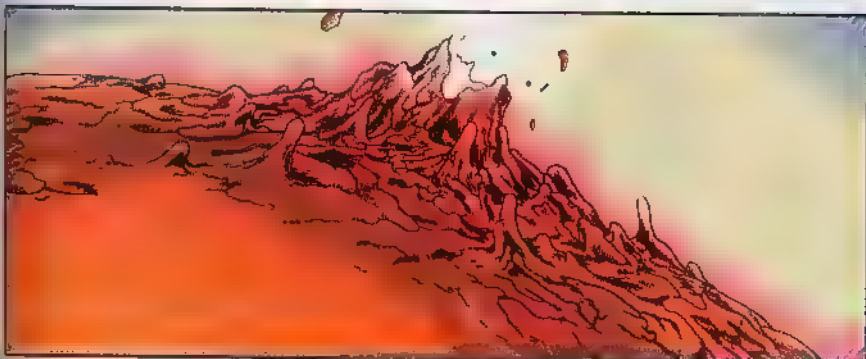






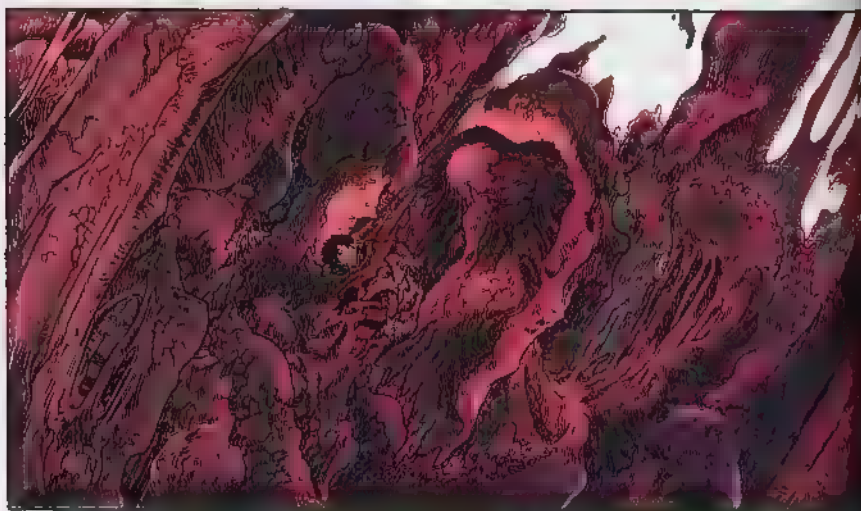
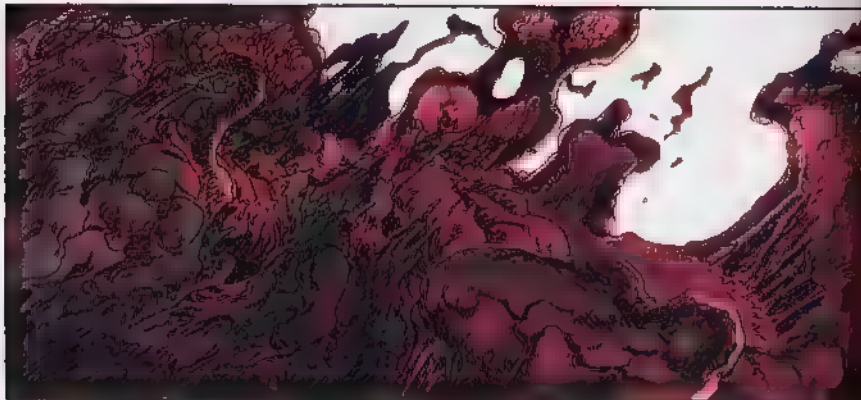


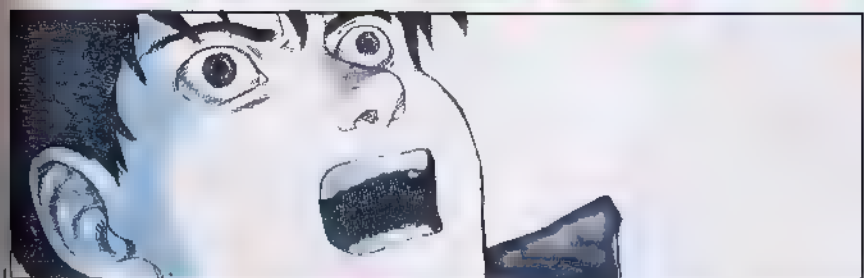
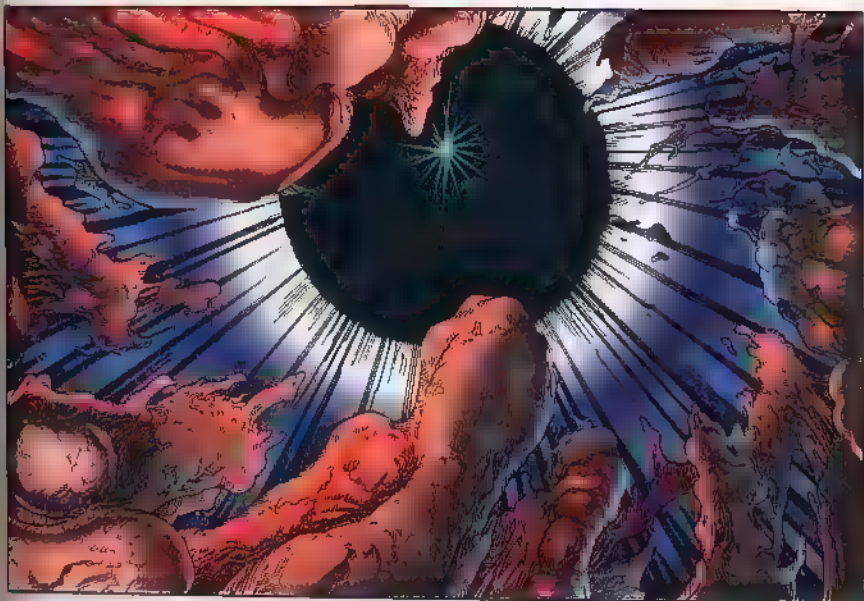






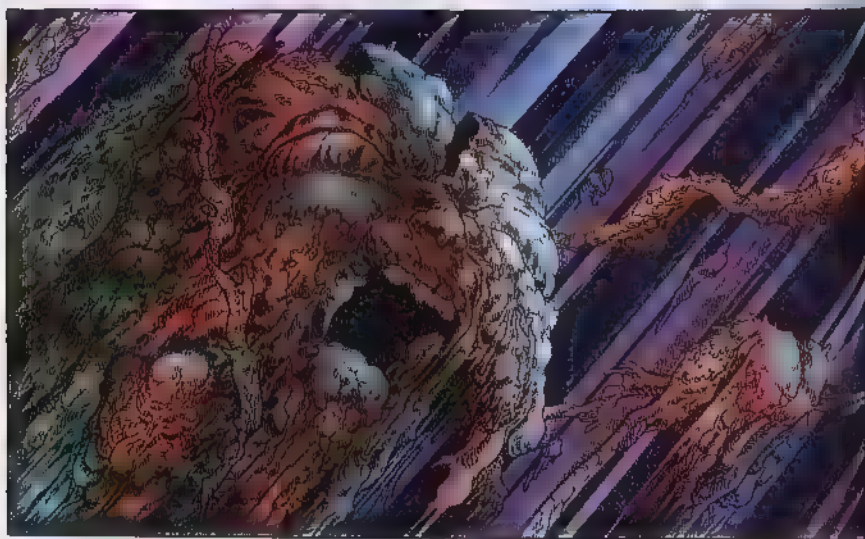
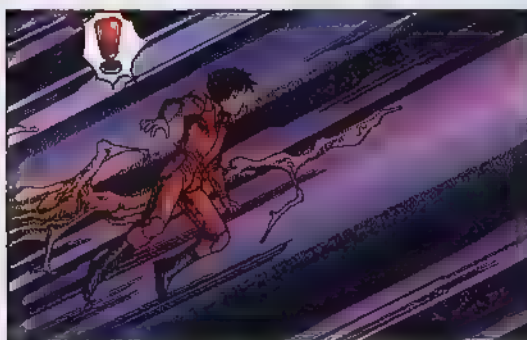
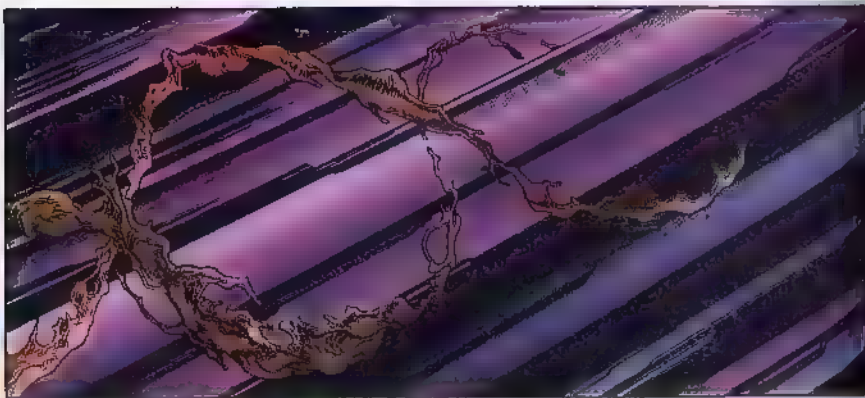


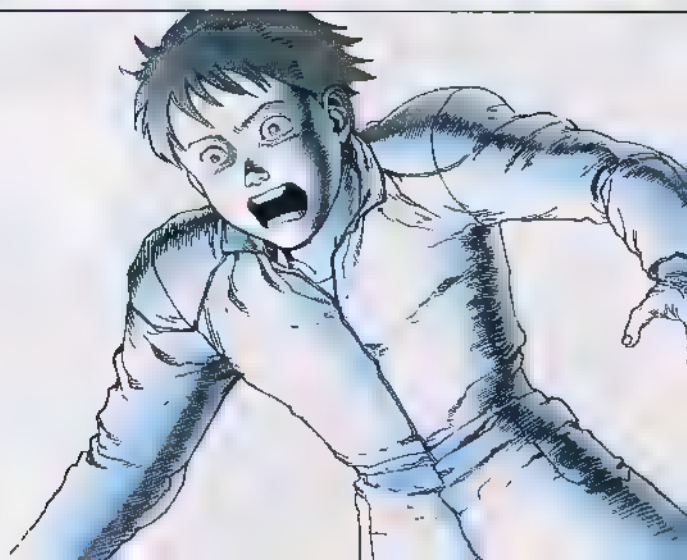
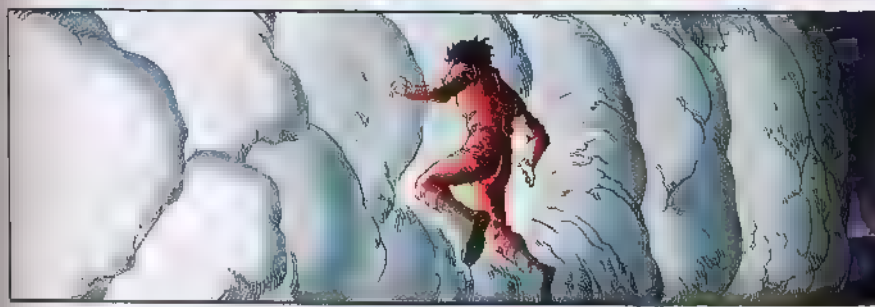
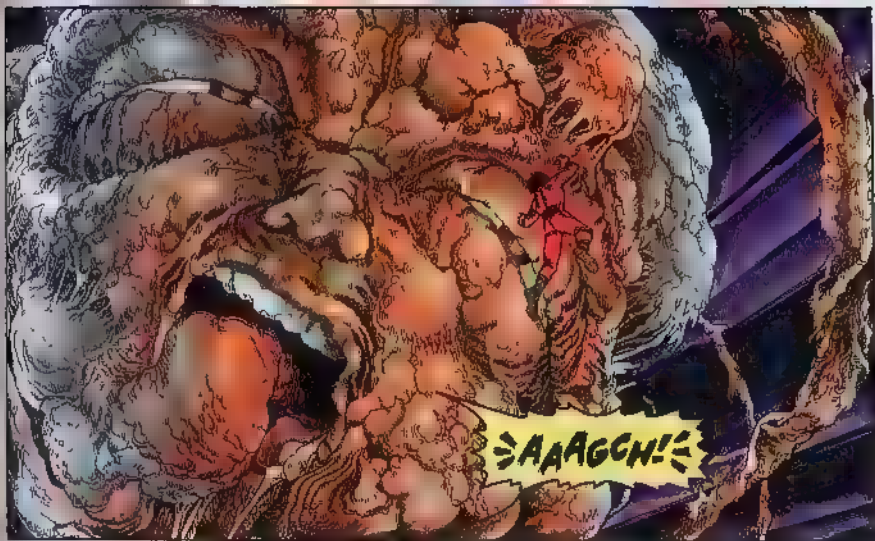












U.S. TETSUO!

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?!

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

KOR!

MORSE IS THE ONE ALL

RIGHT!

IF THAT'S WHO IT WAS

WE MAY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO ESCAPE THE RESTRANTS YOU PLACED ON HIM

HIS BODY CAN NO LONGER CONTAIN THE BURGEONING POWER, SO IT SEEMS TO POSSESS A GREATER FORM

AREN'T YOU KAY?

WHAT ABOUT THE MOON?

TETSUO... IS THAT YOU?

HA...

WE DAI...

THIS IS THE TIME.

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR

MURDO...  
OR IS REED...  
WHY REEDING...

COME ON AND TRY IT, ASSHOLES!

WHY DID YOU?

WHAT?

I'M NOT ALONE.

WE'LL USE PIC 24 "A" INTO YOUR GEAR

AMERICAN SOLDIERS HAVE US UNDER ATTACK.

DID YOU SAY IT'S A DREAM?

THIS IS NO DREAM!

TO CONTROL YOUR POWER YOU MUST FIRST MASTER YOUR OWN WEAKNESS.

LOOK...

I'VE GOT MY ARM BACK

LORD AKIRA!

HAIL, LORD AKIRA!

...LOCATED BENEATH THE CONSTRUCTION FOR THE NEW OLYMPIC STADIUM

I'VE HAD ENOUGH!

YOU CAN READ MY THOUGHTS?

IT'S A COMPLETE FRAUDLINE!

BY THE ME HE WAKES, IT WILL BE TOO LATE

ALL OF THIS WILL FADE AWAY.

I REALIZE NOW HE WAS A HERO TO BOTH OF THEM

SOB! SOB!

HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT AKIRA?!

IT'S AN ILLUSION! ALL OF IT!

AM HERE

HAHHHHH!

AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE

WHAT WAS THAT?

THIS GAS WAS DEVELOPED THROUGH GENETIC ENGINEERING

THESE SOLDIERS ARE THE NEW OLYMPIC TEAM. THEY'VE BEEN TRAINED TO FIGHT THE NEW OLYMPIC TEAM. THEY'VE BEEN TRAINED TO FIGHT THE NEW OLYMPIC TEAM.









TETSUO...

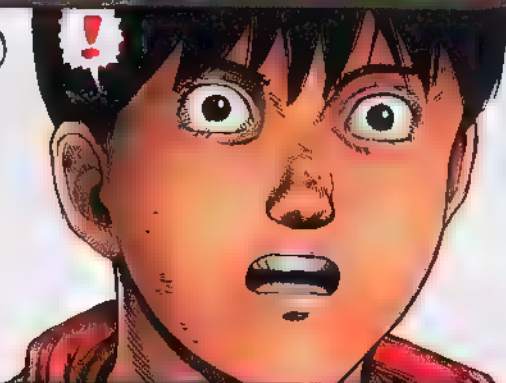


IS ALL  
THIS...



JUST A DREAM  
YOU'RE HAVING?

ALL OF  
HIS LONG-  
SUPPRESSED  
FEELINGS AND  
MEMORIES...

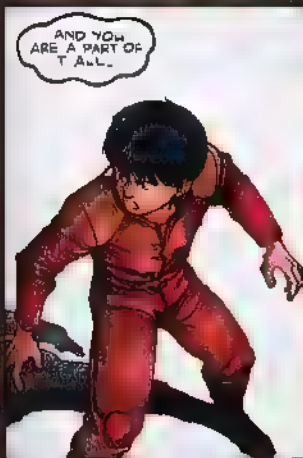


...ARE  
BEING RELEASED  
AT LAST!

MIYANO!



AND YOU  
ARE A PART OF  
T ALL..



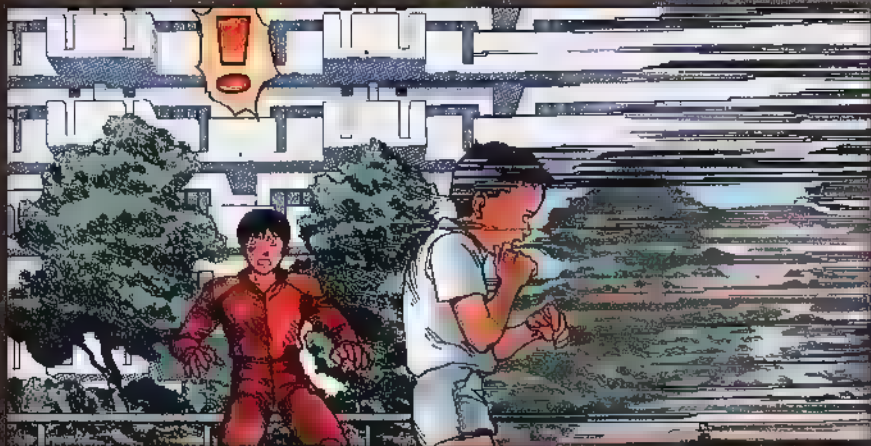
IS TETSUO'S LIFE  
FLASHING BEFORE  
HIS EYES? LIKE  
HE'S GONNA...?

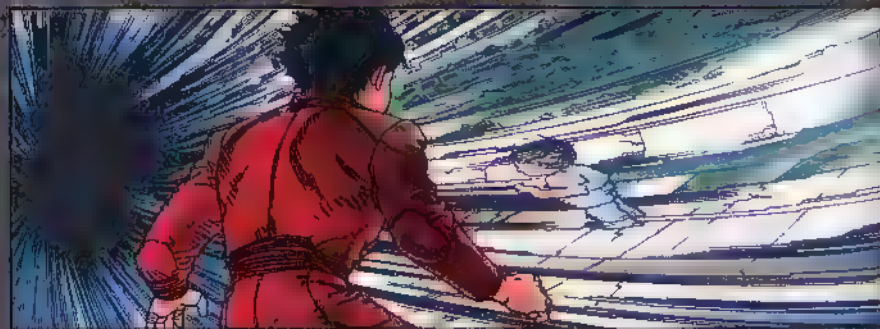


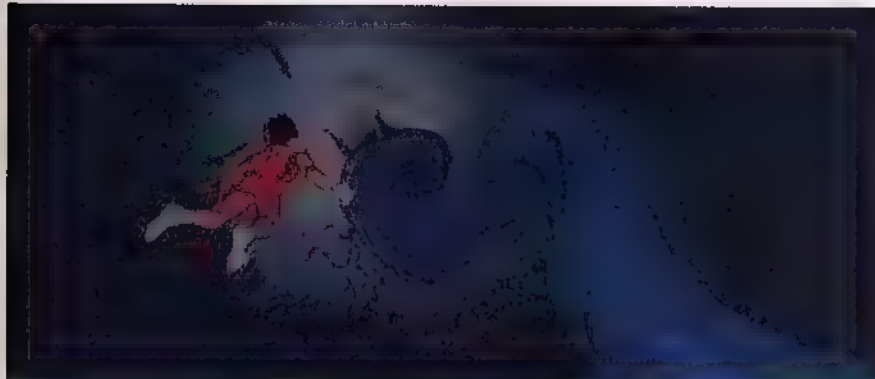
FREED FROM  
THE SHACKLES  
OF HIS BODY..



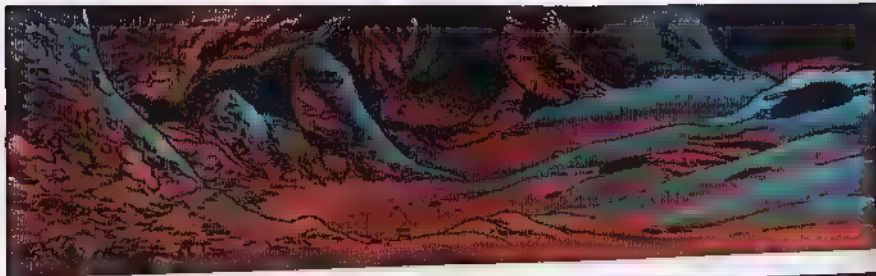
... HIS MIND  
HAS REACHED A  
SPIRITUAL  
PLANE



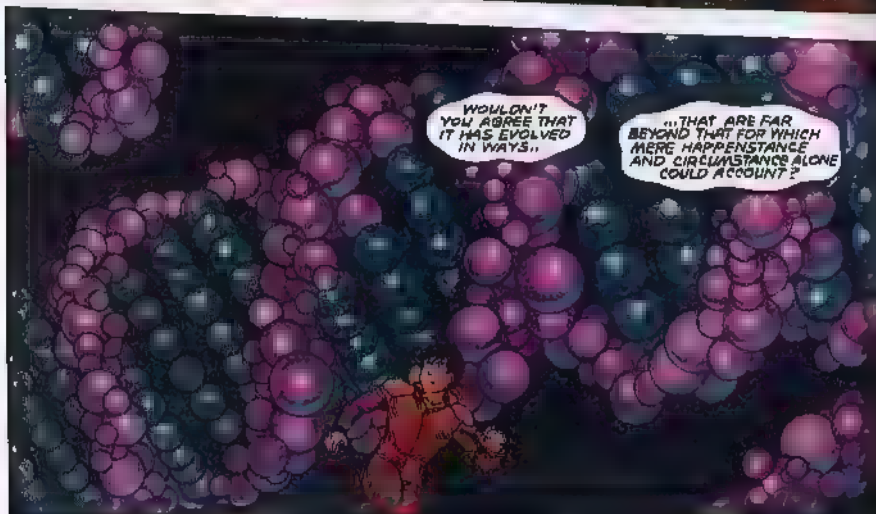








A LIFE  
FORM THAT HAS  
GROWN AND DEVELOPED  
DURING COUNTLESS,  
REPETITIOUS  
EONS ..

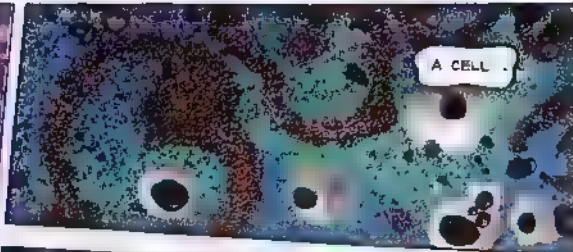


WOULDN'T  
YOU AGREE THAT  
IT HAS EVOLVED  
IN WAYS..

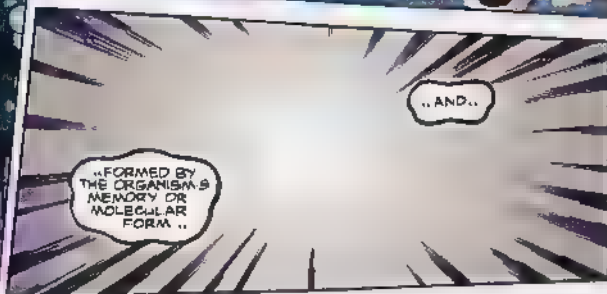
...THAT ARE FAR  
BEYOND THAT FOR WHICH  
MERE HAPPENSTANCE  
AND CIRCUMSTANCE ALONE  
COULD ACCOUNT ?



WHAT DO  
YOU WANT  
ME TO...?



A CELL



..AND..

..FORMED BY  
THE ORGANISM'S  
MEMORY OR  
MOLECULAR  
FORM ..



..THE MEMORY  
OF AN ENTIRE  
UNIVERSE..

Coming next month:  
**AKIRA TRIBUTE  
ISSUE.**



Featuring art and stories by creators  
from the West including Moebius,  
John Romita, Jo Duffy, Mark Texiera,  
Larry Hama, Bret Blevins, Warren Ellis,  
Terry Shoemaker, Kent Williams,  
John Van Fleet, George Pratt, Alex Toth,  
Michael Allred, Joe Madureira,  
Mark Chiarello and Mitch O'Connell.

**KATSUHIRO OTOMO**

writer/illustrator

**SATOSHI TAKABATAKE**

chief assistant; to Mr. Otomo

**SATOSHI KON**

additional artwork

**HIROSHI HIRATA**

designer • AKIRA calligraphy

**AKIRA SAITO**

designer • Kodansha edition

**Kodansha, Ltd.**

**YOKO UMEZAWA**

translation

**KOICHI YUJI**

**HISATAKA NISHITANI**

editor • Kodansha edition

**YUKA ANDO**

**SAM YOSHIBA**

editor and production • Tokyo

**NOBUYUKI OKAZAKI**

managing editor • New York

**Epic Comics**

**JO DUFFY**

english script

**STEVE OLIFF**

with the

**OLYOPTICS COMPUTER CREW**

artists

**MICHAEL HIGGINS**

with **LAURA BRADY**

ethers

**KEVIN SOMERS**

**POLLY WATSON**

assistant editors

**MARIE JAVINS**

editor

**CARL POTTS**

editor in chief



The end is near, for the signs have come to pass, look, and you may see them, too. In a place dancing with stars, a young girl known as Kay commands a machine that spits down fire born in the sun. A trail of children hovers over the city of Neo-Tokyo, weaving strategies of extraordinary forces. The streets below rumble as mental energies collide with the physical, remaking a world. Cut off from her flock, a leader named Lady Miyako screams of salvation and sacrifice. And inside what was once a boy called Tetsuo, things sinister and spiritual battle for control of a human soul.

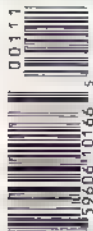
KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA



DIRECT EDITION

00111 >



7 59608 10166 5

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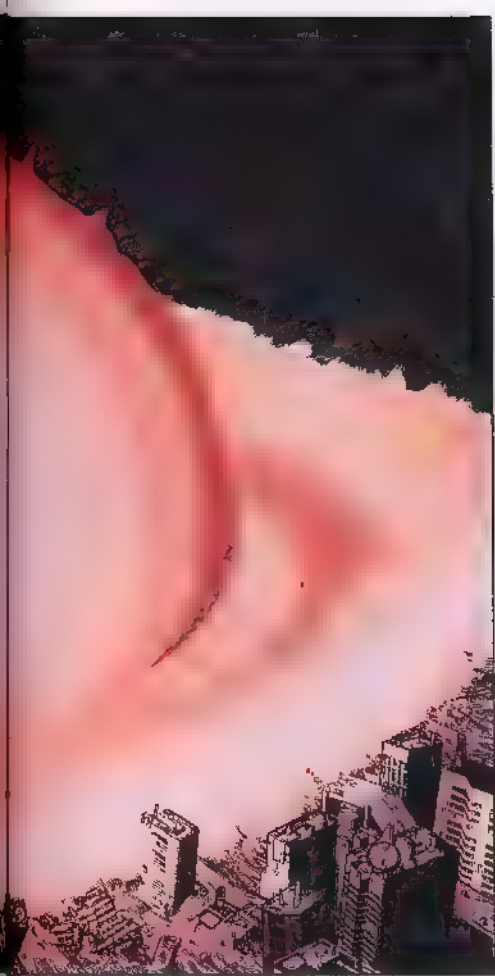
**X-FUTURE**

I love um

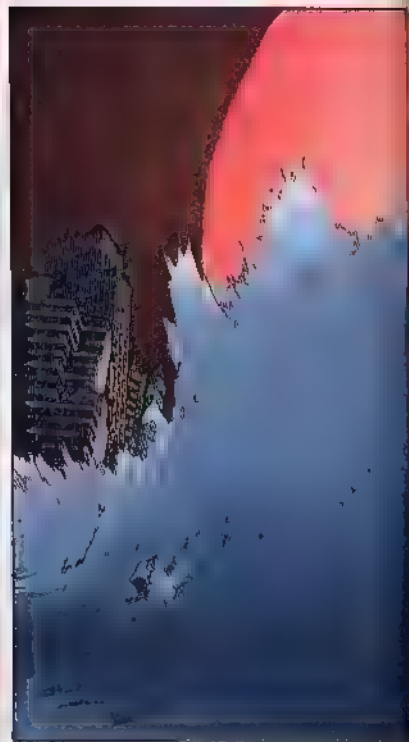
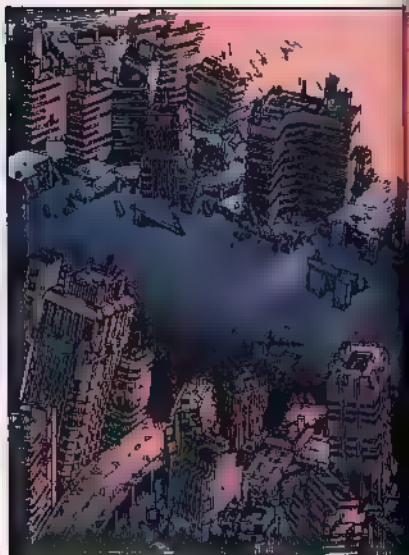
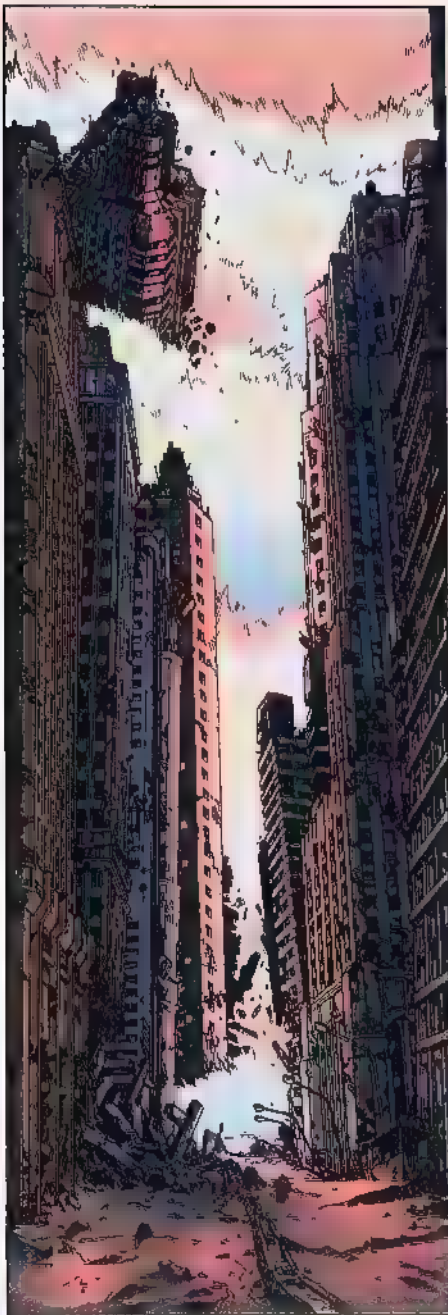
I buy um

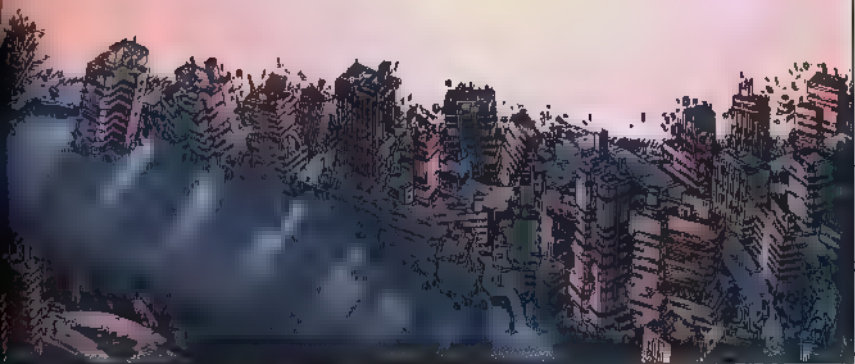
I preserve um



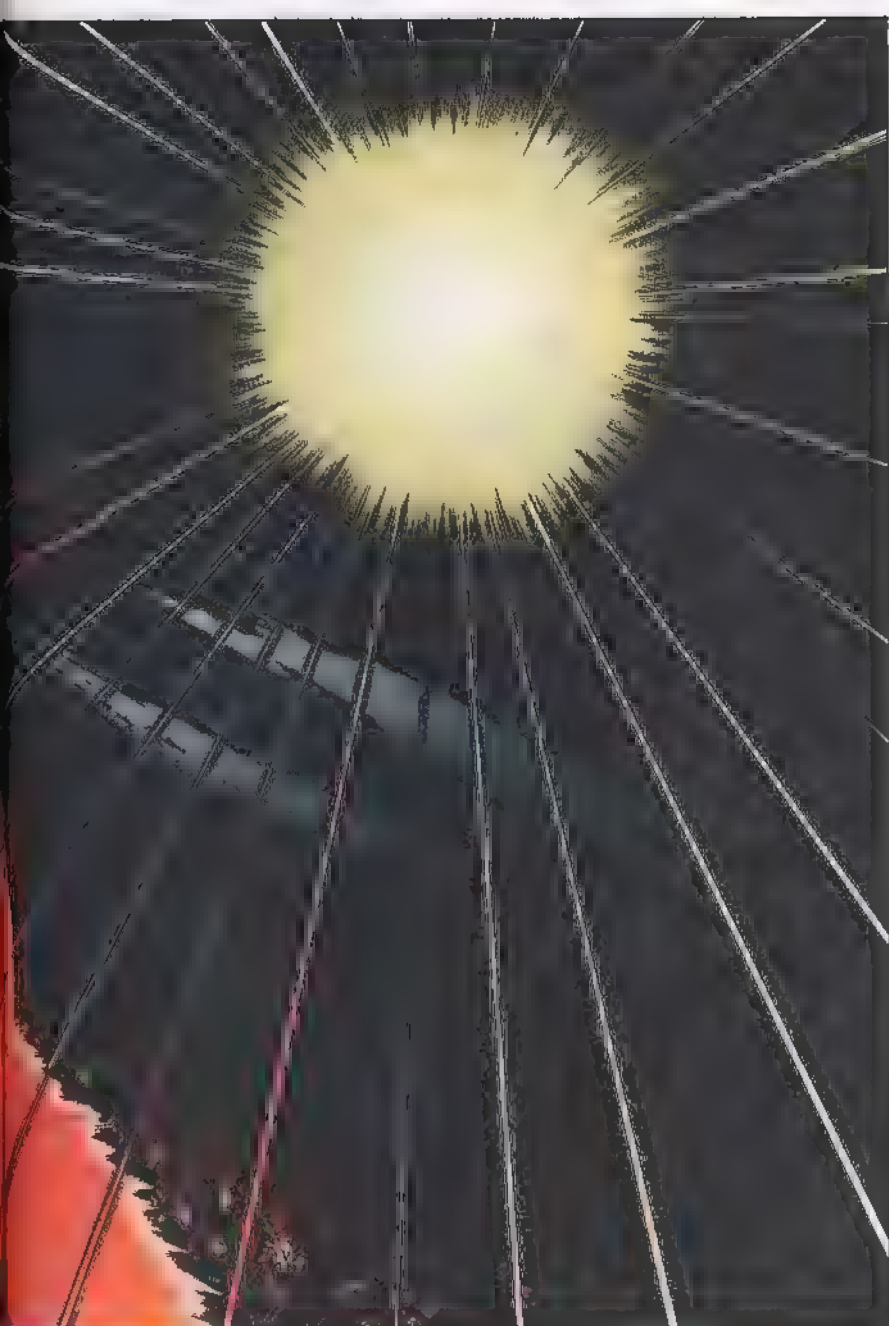








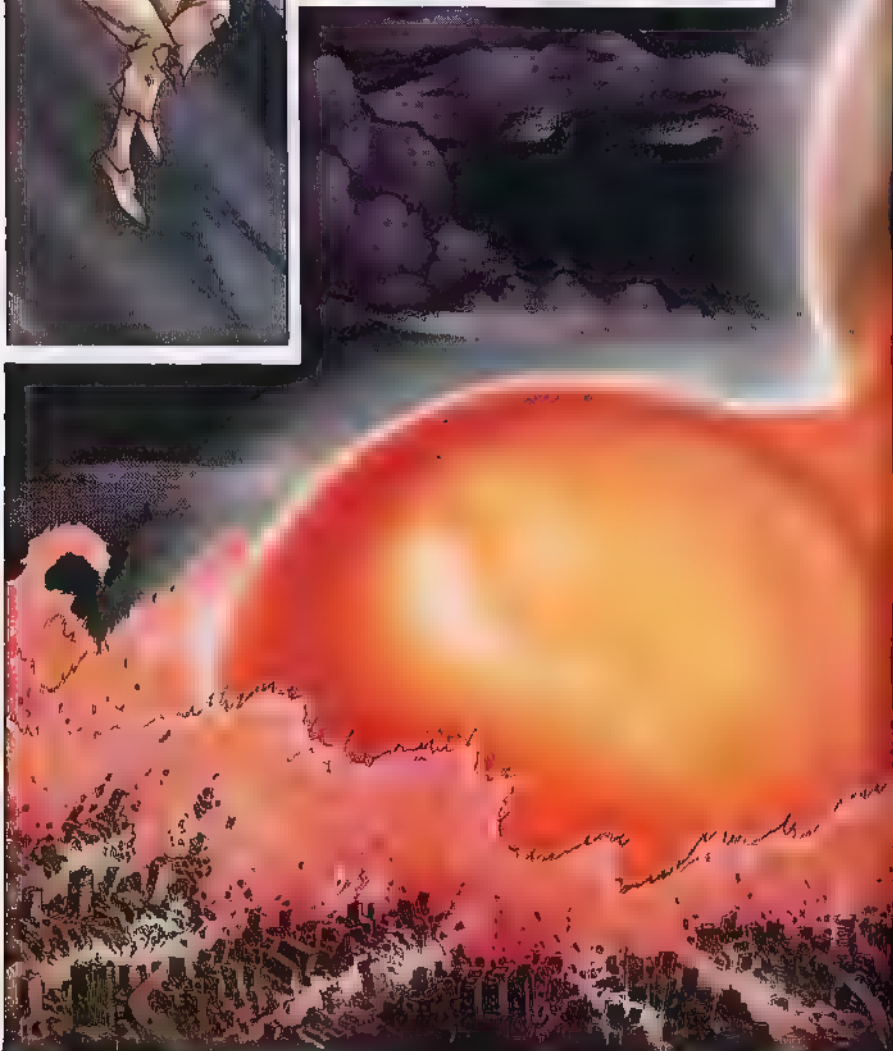




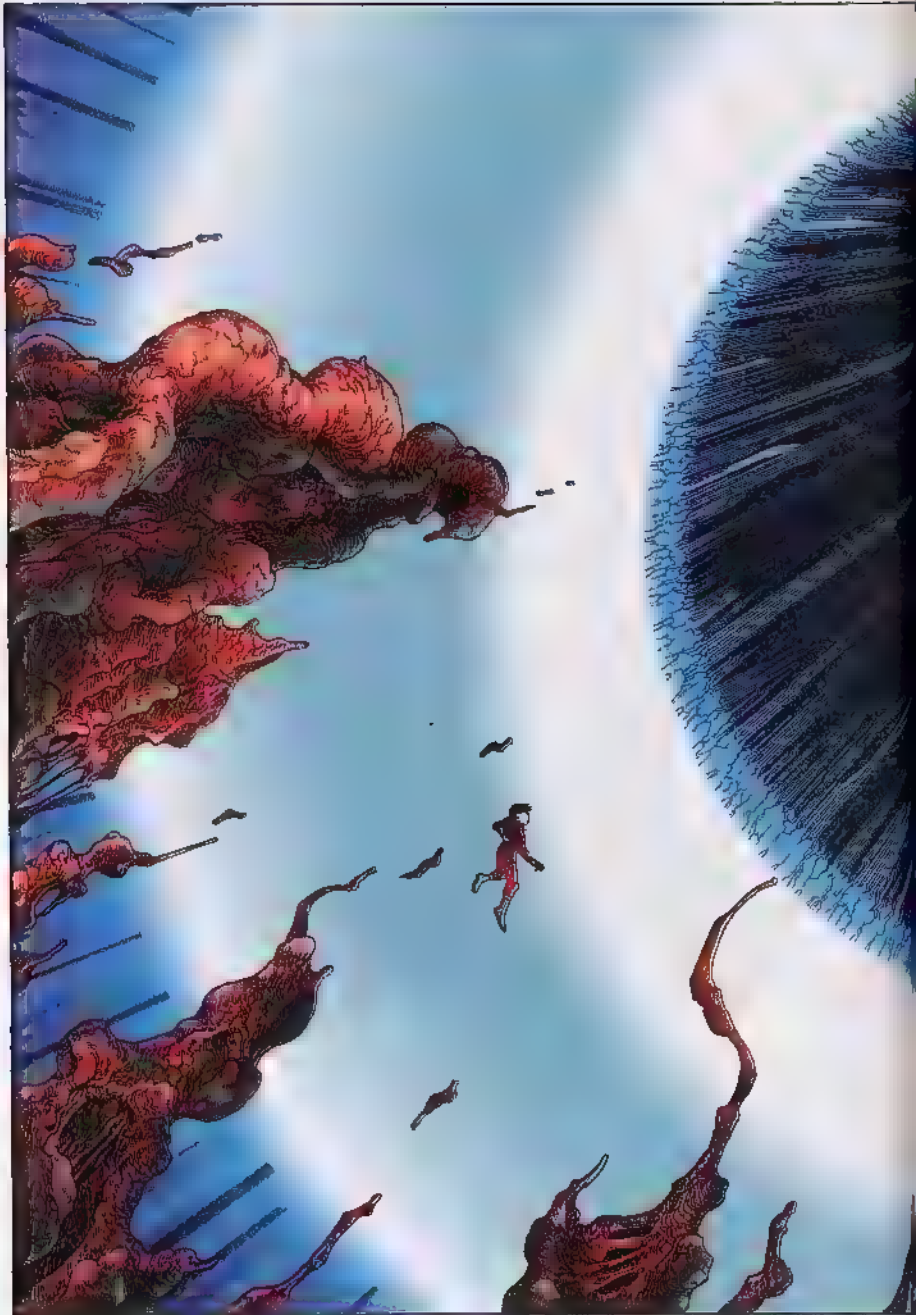




AKIRA IS  
SURROUNDING  
AND ENGULFING  
IT!











TETSUO!

WHAT'S  
HAPPENED  
TO  
YOU  
?!

CAN  
YOU  
HEAR  
ME?

KOOR!!

...MOMENT  
IS THE ONE  
ALL...

TETSUO...  
IS THAT  
YOU?

KA...

...NE...  
CA...

THIS  
IS  
THE  
TIME...

I'VE  
BEEN  
WAITING  
FOR!

MURRY!

A DREAM.

LOOK...

I'VE  
GOT  
MY  
ARM  
BACK.

WE'LL USE PIC-24,  
GET INTO YOUR  
GEAR.

AMERICAN  
SOLDIERS HAVE  
US UNDER  
ATTACK.

DID  
YOU  
SAY  
IT'S  
A  
DREAM  
?

THIS  
IS  
NO  
DREAM!

TO  
CONTROL  
YOUR  
POWER YOU  
MUST  
FIRST  
MASTER  
YOUR  
OWN  
WEAKNESS!

PLEASE  
...USE  
YOUR  
POWER  
TO  
DEFEND  
YOUR!

THIS GAS  
WAS DEVELOPED  
THROUGH GENETIC  
ENGINEERING.

WHAT WAS  
THAT?

AS FAR  
AWAY AS  
POSSIBLE.

HA HA HA HA!

I...

I AM  
HERE!

CAUTION  
DANGER  
FIRE

RIGHT!

IF  
THAT'S  
WHO IT  
WAS...

HE  
MAY HAVE BEEN  
TRYING TO  
ESCAPE THE  
RESTRAINTS  
YOU PLACED  
ON HIM.

AREN'T  
YOU  
KAY?

HIS BODY CAN NO  
LONGER CONTAIN THE  
BURGEONING TOWER,  
SO IT SEEMS TO  
POSSESS A  
GREATER  
FORM.

WHAT  
ABOUT  
THE  
MOON?

MORI  
IS  
KEEP...  
ONLY  
KEEPING...

WHY DID  
YOU--?

WHAT  
--??

COME  
ON AND  
TRY IT,  
ASSHOLES!

I'M NOT  
ALONE.

...LOCATED  
BENEATH THE  
CONSTRUCTION  
FOR THE NEW  
OLYMPIC  
STADIUM.

I'VE HAD  
ENOUGH!

LORD  
ANIRA!

HAH,  
LORD  
ANIRA!

YOU  
SAW IT,  
TOO.

YOU  
CAN  
READ MY  
THOUGHTS  
?

IT'S A  
COMPLETE  
FAILURE.

BY  
THE  
TIME  
HE  
WAKES,  
IT  
WILL BE  
TOO LATE.

I REALIZE  
NOW HE  
WAS A  
HERO TO  
BOTH OF  
THEM.

ALL OF  
THIS WILL  
FADE  
AWAY!

HOW  
DO YOU  
KNOW  
ABOUT  
ANIRA?!

IT'S AN  
ILLUSION!  
ALL OF  
IT!

SOB!!  
SOB!!







YAMAGATAAA!

SO  
YOU'VE  
COME  
BACK...

...NUMBER  
41!!

YAAUGH!

POOR  
LITTLE  
TETSUO...

YAMAGATA!

DON'T  
SWALLOW  
PILL!

SONNA  
PARTY  
TO  
NIGHT!

IT'S A  
CUSTOM  
JOB...  
WANNA  
TRY  
IT?

SAY  
WHAT?

SINCE  
WHEN DO  
YOU GIVE  
ORDERS  
HERE?

LET'S  
RACE  
THOSE  
BIKES  
TILL  
THEY  
FLY!

FROM  
HERE CAN  
WE TAKE  
IT AS IT  
COMES.

YOU'RE  
STILL  
JUST  
A  
KID.

STOP  
TREATING  
ME LIKE  
SUCH A  
BABY!

HE TOOK SOME  
MIND-ALTERING  
DRUG DURING  
THE PAST  
TWENTY-FOUR  
HOURS.



STOP FOLLOWING ME EVERYWHERE!

WHILE WE DON'T WANT TO NEGLECT ACADEMICS...

YOUR MAIN GOAL IS THE TEACHING OF DECENT HUMAN VALUES.

YOUR FIRST FINE HUNK!

HEY, TETSUO! HEADS UP!

AND TETSUO SHIMA WILL BE YOUR NEW FRIEND...

DOES ANYONE WANT TO GO?

I DON'T WANNA GO!

NO!

DON'T MAKE ME GO!

HE CRIES AND CRIES TILL I CAN'T STAND IT. IT'S NOT AS THOUGH HE WERE MY REAL CHILD.



WHY WON'T DADDY COME AND SEE ME?

THE POOL!

SOB-SOB!

